

JANUARY 20, 1991

kill hostage

asks

K. Piaz

K. Piaz

ES

A 3

ERS



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

## Soviet forces seize Latvian ministry

RIGA, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet special forces, in a new operation against Baltic separatist governments, seized the Latvian Interior Ministry in Riga Sunday after a fierce gun battle in which at least four people died. Latvian radio and a member of the Baltic Republic's parliament, Valdis Stein, said hospitals reported four dead civilians, including a Latvian journalist, and eight wounded in the 90-minute action. As angry Latvians gathered around a park near the ministry just off the historic city's Freedom Street, there was a huge blast elsewhere in the city. It was not clear if this was linked to the assault on the ministry.

## Jordan: Patriot missiles no threat

AMMAN (R) — The deployment of U.S. missiles in Israel to block Iraqi rocket attacks posed no threat to Jordan, a senior Jordanian official said Sunday. The United States rushed Patriot missiles and crews to Israel Saturday to defend it against Iraqi attacks, prompting fears among many Jordanians the missiles could be intercepted and fall over the Kingdom. The official said Jordan was in no danger because the Patriot could detect the missiles only 12 kilometres from their targets, which meant the interception would occur over Israel. "When the Patriot intercepts the missile it blows it up into bits and pieces in mid-air which reduces its effect," he said.

Volume 16 Number 4604

AMMAN MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1991, RAJAB 5, 1411

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

# Iraq fires Scuds at Riyadh, Dhahran

## Allied air assault continues

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ LOBBED three Scud missiles into Saudi Arabia Sunday night, but they were destroyed by three Patriot rockets fired from an allied military base in Dhahran, U.S. and Saudi officials said.

Three hours later, air raid sirens sounded again at the base, and four more Patriot rockets were heard being launched. Seconds later, two explosions were heard in the distance, suggesting they had destroyed more incoming missiles.

A Saudi official said the Patriots fired from Dhahran destroyed two Iraqi missiles. The source, who spoke to the AP on

## Two 'strikes' reported

NEW YORK (Agencies) — There were strikes by two Iraqi Scud missiles in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh on Monday, CBS news reported.

The U.S. network said its correspondents in Riyadh had confirmed two missile "hits" in the city. The attack on Riyadh was the first on the Saudi capital after four days of the Gulf war.

"We have no other details," the network said. Residents of Riyadh said at least one missile landed near the Saudi Defence Ministry.

condition of anonymity, said he received the preliminary information from the Saudi military command in Dhahran. However, the source was the first to report the earlier Iraqi missiles were destroyed.

For the second time, journalists, military spokesmen and workers at the Dhahran International Hotel ran to a bomb shelter and donned gas masks. A witness quoted by the AP said the Patriots were launched

from two different sites on the air base and that a military transport plane, which appeared to be approaching for a landing, suddenly aborted its landing and roared off.

In Riyadh, 360 kilometres southwest of Dhahran, AP correspondent Richard Pyle said he heard at least a dozen explosions within 90 seconds. It was unclear if the explosions were incoming missiles, outgoing Patriots, or something else.

One particularly powerful explosion was felt at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Riyadh, across the street from the Saudi Defence Ministry.

(Continued on page 5)



Saddam Hussein

## Only a fraction of Iraq's power used until now — Saddam

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein gave a defiant speech to Iraqi people Sunday, saying Iraq would now strike back at the allied air attack after using only a fraction of its forces thus far.

Referring to U.S. President George Bush, President Saddam declared: "His defeat will be certain."

The five-minute speech, carried by Iraqi radio and monitored in Cyprus, was the first broadcast address by President Saddam himself since the war started. A previous statement in his name was read by an announcer.

"In the coming period, the response of Iraq will be on a larger scale, using all the means and potential God has given us

and which have so far only been used in part," he said in the nationally broadcast address.

"Our ground forces have not entered the battle so far, and only a small part of our air force has been used," he said. "When the confrontation begins with an all-out battle with all kinds of weapons and arms, the extent of the death in the enemy ranks will increase."

President Saddam said his forces "are fighting with heroism and courage which is unprecedented in the history of war."

Referring to Bush, he said: "The infidel tyrant's missiles and aircraft are being destroyed."

President Saddam said the U.S.-led coalition thought it would be "a war of a few days" but has been forced to recalculate after four days of fighting.

"After a while, (Mr. Bush) will begin to feel frustrated, and his defeat will be certain, God willing."

U.S. government officials have often said a war with Iraq could be lengthy.

President Saddam appealed to Muslims and Arabs to strike against U.S. and NATO interests in the Arab World and elsewhere.

"It remains for us to tell all Arabs, all militant believers... wherever they may be that it is your duty to embark on holy war," he said. "You should target their interests wherever they may be. This is your duty, and you should use it to complement the struggle of your brothers in Iraq."

(Continued on page 5)

## Jordan urges halt to war to assess damage, consequences

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called for an immediate halt to the four-day-old war to enable the world to assess the damage it has caused and the threats it poses as a consequence of attacks on nuclear and chemical facilities.

In an interview with David Frost of TVAM, the Crown Prince also said Jordan, which has a proven record of being a country which honours its responsibility and of contributing to the international community as well as to regional stability, has been paying a high price for its positions for the past 23 years.

Asked what his immediate reaction was to what has been reported as Israeli restraint in retaliating for Iraq's missile attacks on Friday and Saturday, the Crown Prince said:

"I think we are dismayed by the massive attacks first of all on Iraq. The prediction was that the Iraqis will retaliate as come as much as of a surprise as of sadness that the Gulf crisis on the one side and the Palestine (issue) on the other — which everyone said was unrelated — (were) linked by weapons of mass destruction on the one side and by this clear joint security threat on the other. So, I think

that the feeling today is one of sobriety and certainly one of tremendous sadness of the fact that the kind of coverage that we saw in Tel Aviv, which miraculously did not effectively mean that death of people, has also not been applied in Iraq, where over 40,000 tonnes of bombs clearly resulted in many more casualties."

Responding to a suggestion/question that the American-allied forces "promise that they will go for military targets" seems to have been observed, the Crown Prince pointed out that the extent of the massive assaults remained unknown.

"We are a country that is, as (British Prime Minister) John Major said, a non-combatant," he said. "And if you listen carefully to me, I said that we are dismayed by any effect on civilians... I just like to say that I have many requests by anti-nuclear war doctors who said clearly they had appealed to the World Health Organisation and to the multinational force to assess damage to nuclear facilities: Have they resulted in radiation? Damages to chemical facilities: Have they resulted in seepage? We are talking about 17 million Iraqis who have been starved of medicines and largely of foodstuffs for five months."

In reply to other questions, the Crown Prince said:

"We have none of the weapons. We believe in total elimination of these weapons and indeed of many of the conventional weapons that are causing so much damage and the continuation of war in the Middle East. We were half way from a political solution to the crisis. It was not possible in the early days of the crisis, when Jordan achieved the commitment to withdraw and we have opposed war and a military solution from the outset. So let me remind you that there are thousands of nuclear warheads with the multinational forces in the region and this confrontation is escalating horizontally. Already Turkish bases are being used to bomb Iraq, and the consequences are extremely fearful for us all if this continues. That is why we have called for a halt in fighting and joined all those who called for an immediate cessation of hostilities so that we can assess the damage to human beings."

Asked whether Jordan was to go to "implement" the Jordanian parliament's resolution calling on the Arab and Muslim nations to strike at American interests and those of the nations

(Continued on page 5)

## Israel 'will hit' Iraq despite Patriots

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Israeli officials denied on Saturday that they had been persuaded not to retaliate against Iraqi air strikes by the hurried despatch of U.S. Patriot anti-missile missiles and Americans to help fire them.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Sunday that his government has "not given any such assurance to anybody" that it will not retaliate for Iraqi missile attacks on his country.

"We will decide when to respond, just how to respond," Mr. Arens said in an interview on the CBS broadcasting network.

Israel's deputy foreign minister echoed Mr. Arens' statements. Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday in an interview on the ABC broadcasting network "we'll very carefully choose" the time, date and method of Israel's reprisal.

An Israeli official in Washington, requesting anonymity, said Israel was prepared to delay retaliation "for the time being" because it was calmed by the Patriots' arrival.

The United States and its allies, many of them Arab states, began air attacks early Thursday against Iraq and Iraqi positions in Kuwait. The fighting began a

day after a U.N. deadline passed for Iraq to remove its troops from Kuwait, which they overran Aug. 2.

The U.S. government said the Patriots arrived Saturday morning in Israel. U.S. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams told reporters later in the day the first Patriot units "are now operational."

Israel Television showed U.S. soldiers in helmets and combat dress helping Israelis unload the Patriots, which have a proven ability to shoot down Iraqi missiles.

Mr. Williams said the Patriots "will be operated primarily by the U.S. troops who arrived with them. They will assist Israeli defence forces in operating them. We'll clearly work closely together on this."

He said it was the biggest military airlift to Israel since the 1973 war.

The Defence Department also said it was the first time U.S. troops have been "deployed to Israel specifically to assist the Israelis in the defence of their country."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir indicated in weekend contacts with top U.S. officials that "Israel maintains its freedom of

(Continued on page 4)

## Hardliners press Iran to drop neutrality

TEHRAN (R) — Hardline Iranian politicians stepped up their pressure on the government Sunday to abandon its Gulf war neutrality and join Iraq in an Islamic holy war against the United States and its allies.

The hardliners called for anti-war rallies and warned that the U.S.-led multinational force would try to subjugate Iran once they had pushed Iraq out of Kuwait.

Former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, leader of the hardliner camp within Tehran's clerical hierarchy, told parliament Sunday that it would be a disgrace if Iran chose to stand by and watch Iraq fight it out alone.

"Today the Persian Gulf and countries of the region are burning in the fire and blood created by global arrogance headed by America, this arch Satan," Mr. Mohtashemi said.

"Today the Muslim nations of the region, and particularly the Iranian nation, have a religious duty to rise for a holy jihad in confrontation against the infidel forces of America, and Zionism," the black-turbaned politician said.

On Saturday, Iran's top policy-making group reaffirmed Tehran's neutral stance in the war. The declaration by the National Security Council gained further authority by the rare attendance of supreme leader

## Gulf peace initiatives float around

Combined agency dispatches

CHINA WILL continue to seek a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis, Premier Li Peng said in Beijing, and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was on a shuttle in North Africa in a similar mission.

The Communist Party newspaper People's Daily quoted Mr. Li as telling a Japanese delegation that greater efforts should be made to resolve the crisis through diplomatic channels.

"We will, as before, make continued efforts with the international community to seek a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis," Mr. Li said.

His remarks, as quoted, left it unclear if China was planning to launch a peace initiative.

Diplomats said rumours were circulating in Beijing that China and the Soviet Union were in contact over a possible initiative.

China was the only one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council which did not support a key resolution setting a Jan. 15 deadline for the use of force to dislodge Iraqi troops from Kuwait after Jan. 15. Beijing abstained on the vote.

China had close relations with Iraq before its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and was one of Baghdad's major arms suppliers.

In previous statements China has supported calls for a Middle East conference to cover the whole range of Arab-Israeli problems.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Algiers Sunday to discuss the Gulf crisis with President Chadli Benjedid, the official news agency APS said.

Algeria and the PLO have appealed to the United Nations to arrange for a ceasefire in the Gulf, along with Cuba, India, Yemen and the Soviet Union, to allow for a political settlement, APS said.

Quoting diplomatic sources in New York, the agency said "at

the moment, any proposal to the Security Council for a ceasefire would be vetoed by four of the permanent members — the United States, the Soviet Union, France and Britain."

The Palestinian news agency Wafa said Sunday, Mr. Yasser Arafat had appealed to Western and non-aligned leaders to call for a ceasefire in the Gulf.

The agency said Mr. Arafat had sent messages to French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister John Major who was asked to convey its contents to Washington.

(Continued on page 5)

## Allied hopes of quick victory fade as long war looms

By Giles Elgood  
Reuters

LONDON — Early forecasts of a short Gulf war have given way to sober warnings of a long conflict, as Iraq shows no sign of surrender after a massive air bombardment.

British Prime Minister John Major gave the latest indication Sunday that Iraq will not be defeated in a few days as some commentators had suggested.

Mr. Major said: "I would imagine it would be a war of quite a few weeks."

"What is clear is that this continual day and night bombardment of the Iraqi war machine is beginning to damage the destructive capacity it has, and I suspect this period

of the war will continue for a considerable period of time," he added.

Warnings from political leaders were backed up by military officials and defence analysts.

The French armed forces chief of staff, General Maurice Schmitt, said the war could last two to three months.

Francois Heisbourg, director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said the air battle alone could go on for another 10 days, and there were suggestions that it, too, could last for weeks.

Bob Hutchinson of Jane's Defence Weekly, an authoritative defence journal, said: "U.S. spokesmen are wise to continue to caution against

euphoria. This is not going to be a short war made to order."

Allied missiles and bombers had been remarkably effective in their attacks, but "there is little evidence that they destroyed the Iraqi air force on the ground."

Even though airfield runways had been cratered by bombing attacks, planes could take off with a reduced payload from a shortened runway.

Mr. Hutchinson said that between 15 and 20 per cent of the Iraqi air force had been destroyed. Military sources have put the damage at no more than 50 of Iraq's 700 combat aircraft, with the rest moved to reinforced shelters in the north of the country.

So far, a full assessment of

bomb damage has been hampered by poor weather over the target areas.

Current assessments contrast with optimistic predictions from some allied air commanders before the start of hostilities that for the first time in history air power alone might win a war.

Analysts believe that the allied field commander, U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf, wants to ensure his air forces have minimised the risk of casualties before he launches his ground troops at Iraq's impressive fortifications on the Kuwait border.

The failure of Iraq's air force to take to the skies in large numbers has led allied commanders to claim a degree of air superiority.

Defence analysts say the allied air forces must now concentrate their attacks on Iraq's elite Republican Guard.

This is deployed as a strategic armoured reserve on the Iraq-Kuwait border to lead a counter-attack if the eventual allied ground thrust succeeds in breaking through.

The 120,000-strong Republican Guard is equipped with up to 600 modern Soviet T-72 tanks.

Military sources said it could be difficult for giant U.S. B-52 bombers to destroy them if they have taken up dispersed defensive positions in the desert.

Allied attacks were also expected to be directed against communications links, supply lines and anti-aircraft batteries

in Iraq's front line in Kuwait.

If Iraqi anti-aircraft units were still operating, allied planes would find it difficult to provide low-level support for advancing ground troops.

Mr. Heisbourg said there would be no abrupt cut-off between the air campaign and the land forces advance. As the air battle continued, the allied were likely to use ground troops to keep the Iraqi front line under pressure.

Iraq has built a huge belt of sand "berms" or ridges, anti-tank ditches that can be filled with burning oil, barbed wire and minefields. Tanks are dug in to form defensive strong-points.

"We will see some ground force activity to keep the Iraqis guessing," Mr. Heisbourg said.

The newspaper said that the official had held several meetings with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his top generals before leaving Baghdad.

Al Diyar quoted the official as saying that about 400 Iraqi warplanes were hidden in bunkers in the mountains of Kurdistan in northeastern Iraq.

"These include the most advanced Iraqi bombers, designed to be saved for the post-war era," according to the official.

(Continued on page 5)

## 'Iraq has hidden 140 mobile missile launchers'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq has 140 mobile missile launchers hidden away in underground bunkers and will continue blasting Israel with them, according to interviews with a Palestinian official and an Iraqi diplomat published Sunday.

In the interviews, published in the Beirut daily Al Diyar, the Iraqi charge d'affaires there, Hikmat Khodeir, was quoted as saying that Iraq would continue launching surface-to-surface missiles at Israel "as long as the war against Iraq lasts."

And the newspaper quoted an unnamed Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) official as saying in a separate interview that Iraq had the 110 mobile launchers "concealed in underground bunkers built in western Iraq to be used in sporadic harassment against Israel."

The launchers can each fire four missiles within a 24-hour period.

"This is part of Iraq's preparations to fight a 100-day war," said the PLO official, who Al Diyar said had arrived in Baghdad Saturday.

The newspaper said that the official had held several meetings with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his top generals before leaving Baghdad.

(Continued on page 5)



# PLO says Israel using Turkish bases to hit Iraq

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Sunday that Israeli jets were deployed at Turkish bases to take part in the conflict.

Yasser Abd Rabbo, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told a news conference Israeli planes had been at bases in Turkey — a member of NATO — since the war broke out last Thursday.

He did not say whether the planes had actively taken part in air raids on Iraq.

"Since the start," the Turkish military bases have received Israeli planes to participate in the aggression against Iraq, Mr. Abd Rabbo added.

Mr. Abd Rabbo said Israel was "supplying information on movements and Iraqi bases in the west of Iraq, near the Jordanian border. There is no doubt that Israel is part of the (U.S.-led coalition's) scenario."

Turkey immediately denied the PLO accusation.

"This is absolutely baseless," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar told Reuters in Ankara.

U.S. jets launched attacks on Iraqi targets from the Turkish base of Incirlik for the second day running Sunday.

The PLO official appealed to Arab countries supporting the coalition — Syria, Egypt and Morocco — to change sides and join the Iraqi camp. Syria and Egypt have rejected such requests.

Abd Rabbo said the PLO, which was in contact with Iraqi leaders, had formulated a peace initiative to try to stop fighting.

"Look for a political solution

that takes into consideration the interests of all the nations of the region, not the interests of the U.S., a few monarchs and isolated leaders who are being dragged behind the U.S. strategy in the region," he said.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Algiers Sunday for talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Algeria and the PLO have appealed to the United Nations to arrange a ceasefire in the Gulf to allow for a political settlement, the Algerian news agency APS said.

APS, quoting diplomatic sources in New York, said any ceasefire proposal would be vetoed by four of the Security Council permanent members: the U.S., Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

Iranian newspapers denounced Turkey's stand on the Gulf war, saying Sunday that Ankara coveted oil-rich northern Iraq.

The English language Tehran Times, which normally reflects government foreign policy thinking, said: "Turkey's de-facto participation in the war against Iraq indicated a dangerous and uncertain turn for the future of the region."

"Today, as long as Iraq maintains its military strength, (Turkey) may not openly get involved in the war, but ... if (the) Iraqi war machine is seriously destroyed, Turkey would capture Kirkuk and Mosul, two important oil-rich cities in northern Iraq and (this is) something many Turkish rulers have listed in their expansionist desires."

The paper said Iran would not

tolerate any carve-up of Iraq.

Another newspaper, the Jomhuri Eslami, said in an editorial Turkey sought to seize northern Iraq to meet its energy needs.

"Turkey during the past several decades has always had a greedy eye on Kirkuk and Mosul in an effort to solve its question of energy supply."

Ankara says it has no territorial designs on Iraq.

U.S. air force planes have been mounting raids against Iraq from Incirlik since early on Friday.

Ankara and Washington have said little about them. A Bush administration official said that Turkish-based planes had taken part in attacks on Iraq and Turkish President Turgut Ozal said Friday U.S. planes "may have gone to Iraq."

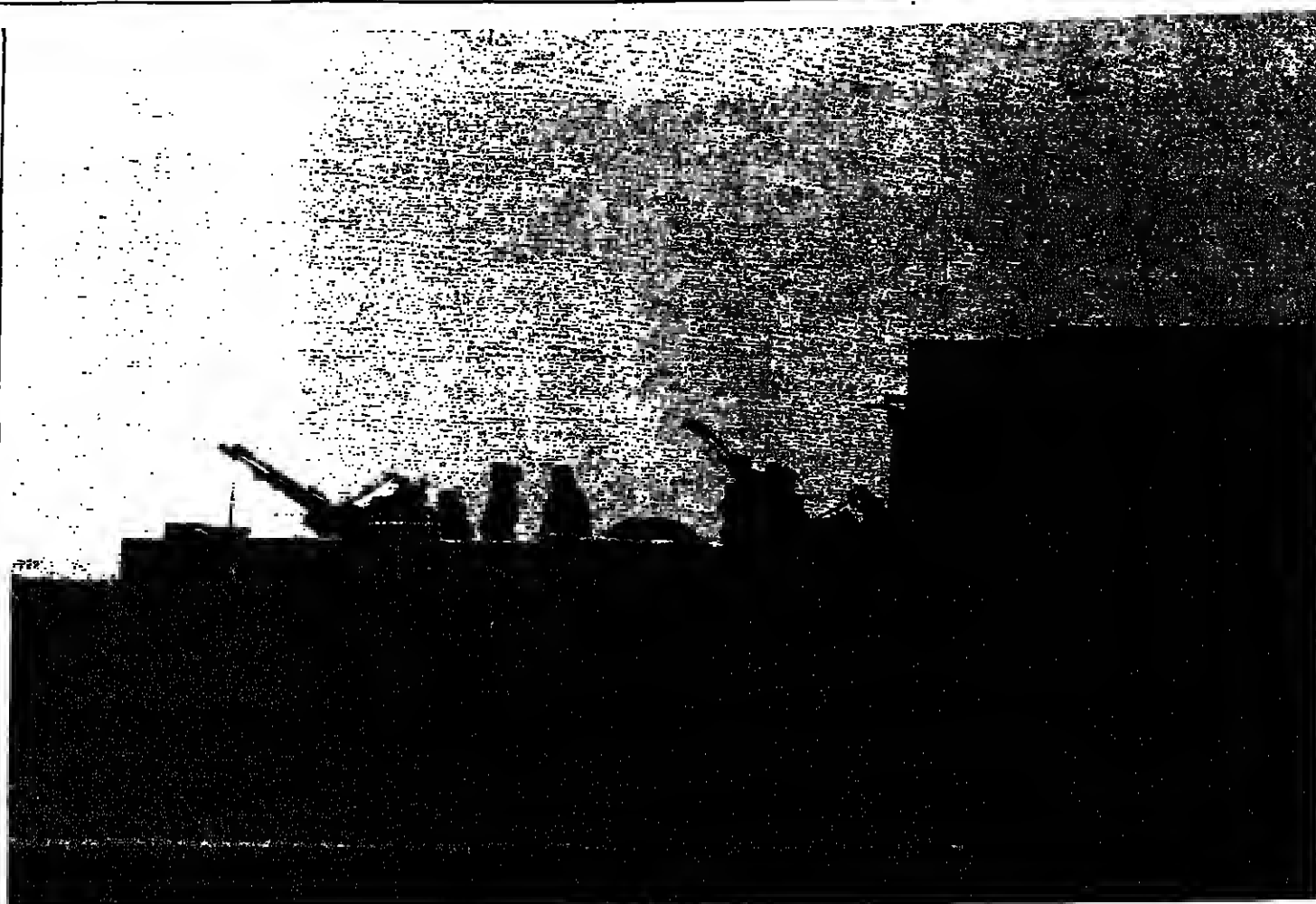
A total of 36 F-15s, F-16s and F-111s took off from Incirlik early Sunday, along with an AWACS plane and only 35 returned.

About three hours later, 10 fully armed jets took off on another sortie.

Spokesmen at the base refused to comment.

The use of the bases is politically sensitive in Turkey. Opposition deputies stormed out of the parliament Saturday, saying the legislature should have been informed of U.S. missions from Turkish territory.

Residents of southeastern Turkey, which borders Iraq, continued to stream out of the region. Hundreds of thousands of people have joined the exodus.



Iraqi soldiers man anti-aircraft guns on the roof of a building in Baghdad (the photographer does not want to be identified)

## In battered Baghdad, farewell to normal life and Amex

By Bernd Dehndmann  
Reuters

AMMAN — "Sorry, sir. We no longer take American express," said the hotel receptionist, his words punctuated by the rumble of heavy explosions. "Things are not what they used to be."

In Baghdad, battered by wave after wave of American air raids, normal life seemed a distant dream and such hum-drum chores as settling a hotel bill turned into an obstacle course.

Unlike the Al Rashid, headquarters for most of the international press, the Palestine (formerly Meridien) on the bank of the Tigris River virtually ceased functioning on day two of the Gulf war, along with much of the rest of Baghdad.

The cashier, hollow-eyed from exhaustion, lay huddled under a blanket in the hotel's air raid shelter, next to a young

mother who cradled her son and sang a soft lullaby to try to still his sobs.

The man with the key to the safe deposit boxes was missing and a search party of hotel staff went to look for him, shining flashlights into pitch-dark offices. He was found asleep under his desk.

Baghdad under the bombs provided lessons in how quickly the things one takes for granted disappear in war. Turning a tap and expecting water, for example, throwing a switch and expecting light, picking up a telephone and expecting a dial tone.

The U.S. raids ended all that in large parts of the city.

"Have a safe journey," said the cashier, once the bill had been settled in dollars. "Hope to see you back in better times."

How long it will take for better times to return is anybody's guess in Baghdad, a city which seems ill-prepared to

withstand a prolonged assault of the scale and intensity of the first few days.

Halfway into the first week of the Gulf War, life in the city had already ground to a near halt. Few people ventured out of bomb shelters or their homes. Shops were closed, only a few cars moved.

Filing stations were closed, not for lack of petrol but for lack of people to man the pumps or electricity to power them.

In some residential areas of Baghdad, only the chirping of birds pierced a ghostly silence.

The first air assault, which knocked out strategic targets such as the air force headquarters and the Defence Ministry carried out by missiles.

In the first two days of the war, there were no independent reports of civilian deaths and Iraqi statements that heavily populated areas had been struck appeared to be

more propaganda than fact.

But as the air assault continued, the deep rumble of explosions from the outskirts of the capital appeared to come from B-52 raids, used extensively in Vietnam for carpet-bombing that turned bogue areas into cratered wastelands.

In such attacks, "collateral damage," the military euphemism for civilian deaths and injury, is almost inevitable.

Until the first missile hit Baghdad, just 18 and a half hours after a United Nations deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait had expired, many Baghdadis refused to believe that their capital would be bombed.

"Bush has said he had no dispute with the Iraqi people," one Baghdadis said as the deadline for war ticked on. "Only the leaders. So how can they bomb the city?"

## Toughest security since World War II at Egypt's famed monuments

By Mimi Mann  
The Associated Press

GIZA PLATEAU — Egyptian officials are imposing the toughest security precautions since World War II to protect the pyramids, sphinx and other monuments from possible attacks.

Cairo's three main museums are closed until further notice. Security has been reinforced at all tourist sites across the country. Access is restricted or forbidden, handbags checked, backpacks banned.

From Alexandria in the north to Luxor and Abu Simbel in the south, the police presence at monuments has been increased greatly.

"These monuments belong not just to the people of Egypt but to the world," said a senior tourist police officer, who refused to be identified under interior ministry rules. "What would the world think if we let something happen?"

"We won't."

The rules were implemented so abruptly that tourists and travel agents sometimes found themselves unsure what they could and could not do.

On Sunday at Giza Plateau, a British tourist barred from the Sphinx pointed of Cheops' Pyramid at the top of the hill and asked a tourist police general: "Do you really think I can bomb something as big as that pyramid with a pack of cigarettes?"

The new rules allow tourists to walk around but not to enter the pyramids and other monuments on the plateau. Tourists also can see the monuments from atop camels or horses.

A tourist favourite, the nightly sound-and-light show in front of the Sphinx, has

been cancelled, and visitors are permitted to see the Sphinx only from a distance.

A group of Brazilian tourists were so perturbed at the restrictions that they refused to pay the usual entrance fee of 10 Egyptian pounds (about \$3).

"We paid a lot of money to fly here, and we aren't rich," one said as they leaned into a tourist police van to protest. "We're only teachers from Brazil."

An officer waved them on their way with: "Enjoy yourself. Welcome to Egypt."

British tour guide John Lovett has led Thomas Cook tours to Egypt for 10 years. Saturday morning his tour group of only three stood near the Sphinx, unhappy because a tourist policeman told them they could not ride a camel even though their package tour included it.

An officer who outranked the policeman quickly fixed that problem. He called over three camels. "It's easy today because there're so few visitors," the officer said.

This time last year, more than 2,000 tourists wandered the pyramids area each day. Saturday morning, there were 55 foreigners and a handful of Egyptians and other Arabs.

Egyptians love the plateau and normally visit in droves. But with a potential for attacks, the tourist police officer said, "at the moment it's difficult for Egyptians to be allowed access to the plateau. For Arabs, it's very difficult."

"I think it's stupid to keep people from these monuments because they're so big," Lovett said.

Anyway, he said, Egypt's safe.

"We're having a wonderful time," Lovett said. "It's just

that people don't want to come. They see the map and think Egypt is next to Kuwait."

Lovett said the new rules are causing tour guides to make some impromptu schedule changes.

"Okay, the museums are closed," he said. "I'm going to take my group to the cemeteries of Al Alamein instead."

That is the site of the crucial desert battle that in 1942 turned back the Nazi advance just 240 kilometres north of Giza plateau. Then, wartime security precautions for the monuments included constructing a brick fence beneath the Sphinx's chin, which stayed until the war's end.

## Syrians

(Continued from page 1)

has contributed troops to the U.S.-led coalition based in Saudi Arabia.

Many ordinary Syrians were delighted when Iraq attacked Israel with missiles over the weekend.

While the state-run media was attacking President Saddam, some Syrians were calling him a hero because he had acted on his threats to attack Israel.

Two Palestinian groups based in Damascus have announced their backing of Baghdad and urged worldwide retaliation against U.S., Israel and Western interests.

A major Muslim fundamentalist group, one of the largest opposition bodies in Egypt, urged President Hosni Mubarak Sunday to quit the anti-Iraq coalition.

It condemned "aggression against the Iraqi people" by the U.S.-led multinational force.

## U.S. arranging military airlift for some Americans

DHAHRAN (AP) — The State Department said Saturday it was arranging a military airlift for Americans who want to flee northern Saudi Arabia and the nearby island emirate of Bahrain.

The announcements, by the consulate in Dhahran and the U.S. embassy in Bahrain, came a day after an incoming Iraqi Scud missile was destroyed over Dhahran, a coastal city in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province 320 kilometres south of the Kuwait border.

It was not clear when the evacuation would begin.

"The U.S. military must determine the best time to transport civilians safely out of the Gulf region," the Dhahran statement said.

There have been no commercial flights out of the area since the war began, and flights that did get out before hostilities erupted were jammed. Many scheduled flights were cancelled because of war jitters and soaring insurance premiums.

An estimated 8,000 Americans are in Dhahran, a major staging

area for the U.S.-led military action aimed at driving Iraq from Kuwait, many of them workers at the government-owned Saudi Aramco Oil Co. About 600 Americans are in Bahrain. The island, also being used by the anti-Iraq air and naval forces, is connected to Dhahran by a 20-kilometre causeway.

One U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said safety was not a concern in the Saudi capital of Riyadh and other areas outside the oil-rich Eastern Province. Riyadh is considered at the far end of the range of Iraq's modified Scud missiles.

The statements did not urge Americans to leave, and the Bahrain announcement said the State Department considered the island safe. Officials said the airlift was being arranged because Americans had no other way to leave the region.

Under strict Saudi labour laws, foreign workers here on contracts must give a 30-day notice before leaving their jobs. Those who fail to do so often lose deferred wages and benefits.

## U.S. to press allies for more of Gulf war costs

NEW YORK (R) — The United States is expected to press its allies to pay more of the costs of the war against Iraq, U.S. officials said.

"Burden-sharing and aid to the front-line states is on the agenda," one official said of a two-day meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the leading industrial nations starting Sunday.

Attention is likely to focus on Japan and Germany, neither of which has contributed militarily to the U.S.-led drive against Iraq, but both of which depend on Middle East oil to run their powerful economies.

The two-day meeting brings together finance ministers and central bankers from the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — the so-called Group of Seven.

The Gulf war and its impact on the global economy are likely to dominate the meeting although other issues, including the Soviet economy and the U.S. dollar, are on the agenda.

Analysts reckon Washington

is shelling out more than \$500 million a day for its attacks against targets in Iraq and Kuwait.

That is money the United States, with its burgeoning budget deficit, can ill afford. And the cost of the war could double to \$1 billion a day if U.S.-led Arab and Western forces launch a ground assault, the analysts say.

U.S. lawmakers have criticised Japan and Germany for not doing more to help the Gulf war effort.

Japan, which has already pledged \$2 billion to support the allied forces, has signalled that it is willing to do more.

"Since we're faced with a war situation, it's only common sense that it will be more than before," Japanese government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto told a news conference Friday.

A no-confidence report in the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun Saturday said Tokyo would pledge \$5 billion to the U.S.-led forces at the Group of Seven meeting.

## Pakistan's Gulf role brings problems at home

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistan government faces mounting protests over its support for the United States in the Gulf, but public response to the war in other Muslim nations in Asia has been muted.

Angry demonstrations against U.S. involvement have rocked Pakistan's cities for several days and the venom is now being directed towards the government as well.

In other predominantly Muslim nations — Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia — fundamentalist religious groups have stayed largely neutral and governments have kept the lid on demonstrations of support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government has been attacked, even by some of its political allies, for its decision to send 11,000 troops to Saudi Arabia.

It has responded by expelling an Iraqi diplomat accused of fomenting protests, detaining a pro-Iraq journalist for 12 hours, shutting schools and colleges in one province, and banning the sale of President Saddam Hussein's portrait in Karachi.

The government has launched bitter verbal attacks on President Saddam, contrasting with the mood on the streets where pictures of the Iraqi President in military uniform, or kneeling in prayer, are a common sight.

Political analysts say the protests could threaten Mr. Sharif's Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), which routed former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in elections last October.

The right-wing Jamaat-Islami religious party, one of nine parties forming the IDA, demands the withdrawal of Pakistani troops from Saudi Arabia.

In Indonesia, Asia's largest Muslim nation, public and press comment on war in the Gulf has been restrained. There have been few reports of violence.

Indonesian leaders are trying to take a neutral line as possible while complying with U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Try Sutrisno has urged Indonesians to stay calm and not put national stability at risk. He did not refer to any specific group, but the government has long regarded Muslim fundamentalists with suspicion.

Malaysian police pre-empted mass protests by Islamic groups on Jan. 18 by banning anti-war demonstrations. Several peaceful protests had previously been held outside the U.S. embassy.

Islam is Malaysia's official religion and Muslims comprise just over half the population of 17 million. They seem generally sympathetic to Iraq, although their leaders do not condone its invasion of Kuwait.

On Sunday, the government banned rallies and marches. Police guarded roads leading to embassies.

Small groups of pro-Iraq demonstrators have hurled stones at the U.S., Saudi Arabian and Egyptian embassies in Dhaka over the past two days.

On one occasion they burned effigies of U.S. President George Bush and attacked the American Club and a Saudi Arabian school before police dispersed them with tear-gas.

Other Bangladeshis, including some who lost their jobs in Kuwait, have demonstrated in support of the U.S.-led forces in the Gulf.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
18:00	News summary
18:10	Local programme
19:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:40	Programme review
21:40	Local programmes
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	La Camorra
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sport magazine
19:20	News in Hebrew
19:45	Vietnam
20:30	The Golden Girls
21:10	The Keepers
22:00	News in English
22:30	Derrick
PRAYER TIMES	
05:11	Fajr
06:32	(Sunrise) Duha
11:46	Dhuhr
14:36	Asr

CHURCHES	
17:00	Maghreb
18:21	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terraviva Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751	
Assamese International Church Tel. 811295	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Farouq Hussein	786680
Dr. Jamil Tarif	794710
Dr. Mufeed Tannous	844480
Dr. Mohammed Abu Maftouh	793344
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	638072
Al Salami pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmiciani pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	636341
Rescue	636341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire brigade	891238
Blood Bank	775121
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann	642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Ann	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhus, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmiciani	664174
Shmiciani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muhsin Hospital	667279
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	654164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	771013
Al-Badiri, J. Ashrafich	775112/26
Army, Marja	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	6824050
Amal Hospital	674155
Zarga Govt. Hospital	09983323
Zarga National Hospital	09983323
Ibn Sina Hospital	09986732
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	02727535
Greek Catholic Hospital	02727275
Ibn Ali Nafes Hospital	02724710

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	580 / 480
Banana	500 / 450
Banana (Makama)	450 / 400
Beans	500 / 400
Cabbage	100 / 80
Carrot	250 / 200
Cauliflower	220 / 180
Corn	200 / 150
Cucumbers (large)	100 / 60
Cucumbers (small)	200 / 140
Dates	300 / 400
Eggplant	200 / 150
Garlic	1700 / 1300
Lemon	300 / 250
Mallow	180 / 120
Marrow (large)	150 / 100
Marrow (small)	280 / 220
Onion (dry)	280 / 220
Onion (green)	150 / 100
Okra	600 / 500
Orange	400 / 350
Pepper (hot)	420 / 350
Pepper (sweet)	220 / 160
Portato	330 / 280
Radish	120 / 100
Sage	400 / 300
Spinach	150 / 100
Tomatoes	170 / 100



## Evacuee flood seen taking its own time

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An expected b-n man wave from Iraq and Kuwait failed to materialise at the Jordanian border post by Sunday, two days after the Kingdom reopened its northeastern frontier for war refugees.

Around 3,000 Egyptians, several hundred Sudanese and a few other Arabs and non Arabs, were the arrivals between Friday and Sunday midnoon, border officials said. The figures do not include Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese nationals.

International relief agency officials who had been braced to handle as many as 6,000 to 8,000 arrivals every day said they were puzzled by the trickle that has come through.

Jordanian expatriates who arrived here late Saturday said it appeared that many foreign residents of Iraq were not aware of the Jordanian decision to reopen the border Friday, nine days after closing it.

The Jordanian decision was announced about 30 hours after the American-led allied forces launched war on Iraq with a massive air strike on the capital and targets in several areas.

Officials and emergency situation experts said they could see several reasons were seen behind the relative calm at the Ruweisah post in the northeast.

Among the theories forwarded were:

— Communications had broken down shortly after the allied assault began, and this had rendered it very difficult to spread word in any broad level that the border with Jordan was reopened;

— Fears are high that travellers to the border could be exposed to air attacks during the 600-kilometre trip;

— Price of fuel has gone too high for many of the penniless Asian and other expatriates in Iraq and Kuwait to hire vehicles;

— Many of the 1.2-million-strong Egyptian and 120,000-strong Sudanese communities are farmhands married to Iraqi women and have settled down in Iraq with little contact with their homeland.

— "They may not find any reason to flee as long as their lives are not directly threatened," said a Jordanian who frequently travels to Iraq on business trips.

— Thousands of Baghdad residents have fled to the desert away from the capital and now in the process of returning. Therefore, it would take some time before they manage to pull themselves together and contemplate leaving the besieged country.

— Civilian casualties in the

allied air raids have been surprisingly low, considering the intensity of the bombings, and this could have encouraged many to remain.

"If these theories are right, then we need not expect any massive flow until the war touches the ground," said a senior international relief official referring to reported plans for a ground offensive as the next phase in the allied strategy to dislodge the Iraqi army from Kuwait.

"But such a ground offensive could take weeks to materialise," he commented, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Figures available to the Jordan Times indicated that around 2,100 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait remained in Jordan Sunday evening. These included 962 Vietnamese, 432 Sudanese, 60 Indians, 58 Bangladeshis and seven Sri Lankans.

Mohammad Yahya Maroofi, chief of mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said IOM was trying to find alternate means to send the evacuees home in the absence of regular airline flights to and from Amman.

In addition, 550 Egyptians also remained here awaiting ferry trips home across the Red Sea from Aqaba. The transit of Egyptians through Jordan is covered under an arrangement between the Cairo and Amman governments.

Also remaining in the Kingdom are 456 Somali nationals who applied for refugee status with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) since their arrival here in August.

Some of them are housed at a transit camp at Azraq, 100 kilometres northeast of Amman, while others are accommodated in apartments and hotels in and around the capital.

The initial ground for the Somalis' approach to UNHCR was that they belonged to clans opposed to the regime of President Mohammad Siad Barre in Mogadishu in the ongoing revolt and therefore faced persecution if they return home.

But prospects for their return home have brightened in the wake of the revolt gaining the upper hand. The rebel United Somali Congress is now controlling most of the country.

There are also a handful of Ethiopians and Liberians who remain in Jordan after approaching UNHCR for asylum.

Jordan has an unblemished record of respecting the code of political refuge by not repatriating anyone to any destination against his or her wish, according to UNHCR officials.



**AIRING ANGER:** A group of Jordanian women Sunday staged a sit-in near the American Embassy to protest the American aggression on Iraq. The women carried placards and shouted slogans denouncing the Zionist attack against Iraq and rejecting foreign intervention in Arab affairs (Petra photo)

## U.N. officials thank King, government, parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — Heads of United Nations agencies operating in Jordan Sunday called on the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul La'if Arabiyat and briefed him on their services and duties in the current adverse conditions.

They also expressed appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's nation-wide address last Tuesday in which he voiced Jordan's readiness to give full protection to foreign nationals in Jordan and lauded parliament's help to United Nations agencies to help them carry out their operations in Jordan.

Arabiyat said Jordan appreciates the role of the United Nations organisations in their humanitarian assistance and social and educational services.

He said that Jordan was keen on retaining strong and unique relations with world organisations, but parliament had reservations about the Security Council whose resolutions were exploited by

the super powers to achieve their own selfish interests.

Arabiyat stressed that Jordan was giving due care for and respect to all foreign nationals and international organisations and diplomatic missions operating in Jordan, and that Jordanian people would remain hospitable to foreigners as ever.

The Jordanian people, Arabiyat added, realise the role played by the United Nations organisations in the Kingdom and are willing to fully cooperate with each one of them to achieve the aspired success.

The delegation included United Nations Development Programme Director-General Ali Aqqa, and heads of United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Relief and Works Agency as well as the liaison officer at the United Nations truce supervision organisation and the head of the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation.

Arabiyat earlier sent a cable to the speaker of the French

national assembly expressing Jordan's shock at France's involvement in military operations against Iraq.

Franco-Arab relations have always been marked with cordiality and understanding, and the Arab and French people have always maintained strong economic and social ties, said Arabiyat in his cable.

"What deepened and increased the Arab people's feelings of bitterness is the approval accorded by the French national assembly allowing French forces to launch aggression on Iraq," said Arabiyat.

He said that common French-Arab interests should prompt France to pull out its forces from the Gulf and use its international influence to solve the issue peacefully.

Arabiyat also Sunday sent a cable to His Holiness Pope John Paul II calling on him to intervene and stop the Gulf war so that the problem can be settled through peaceful means.

## Hundreds of evacuees arrive in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 228 evacuees crossed into Jordan through the Ruweisah border post near the Jordanian-Iraqi border Sunday, according to a spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD).

The spokesman said that crossing both ways through Ruweisah was far lower in level than those of the past months following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

But according to the spokesman, the police and other concerned authorities at the border post have taken all necessary arrangements for receiving the evacuees coming from Iraq and Kuwait and settling them in camps prior to their repatriation

to cooperation with the international organisations.

The evacuees were allowed in following a general agreement concluded between Jordan and the concerned international organisations which pledged to cover the whole cost of food, transport and medical services for the evacuees en route to their homeland.

In Aqaba meanwhile, arrangements have been made for receiving evacuees on their way to Egypt, Sudan and Yemen.

A statement in Aqaba said that evacuees began arriving at the port city where camps were pitched to house them before they can be repatriated by air

and sea. The camps have been fully equipped to house Sudanese, Egyptians and Yemenis, the statement noted.

The Civil Defence Department in Aqaba said its centres were operating 24 hours a day providing first aid and other necessary services in emergency cases to all evacuees.

In Amman, Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Ahmad Abu Oura said that he received messages from the Red Cross societies of Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland expressing readiness to help the JNRCS carry out its humanitarian mission under the present circumstances.

## Government steps up effort to stop war

# Senators slam U.S. and its Arab allies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian government is currently holding consultations with numerous Arab and Islamic nations to reach a formula through the United Nations Security Council to halt the ongoing war in the Gulf and end the aggression on Iraq, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh announced Sunday.

Jordan is seeking a peaceful solution for the Gulf issue; and it will be cooperating with other states to achieve that goal as soon as possible, Mr. Masaadeh said in a statement to the Upper House of Parliament.

The minister voiced appreciation of the Jordanian people's contributions to the Peoples' Army and urged citizens to offer donations to the nation's efforts to deal with the present emergency situation through a special committee which has been set up to operate in coordination with provincial governments.

Reviewing the civil defence department's activities, Masaadeh said that nearly 130,000 Jordanian citizens have received training in civil defence operations over the past four months to help deal with any emergency.

The minister gave his remarks after several House members made speeches tackling the present situation in the Gulf.

The Senate approved of a proposal submitted by House member Ahmad Obeidat calling on the government to summon the ambassadors of Syria, Egypt, Turkey and Pakistan to obtain clarification from their governments about their positions with regard to the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq.

Senators who addressed the session Sunday heaped scorn on Arab leaders allied with the United States in the war against Iraq.

"Shame on the Arab Nation and its leaders who are only

standing and watching the onslaught against Iraq," said Nawaf Al Qadi, an independent bedouin member of the 40-seat Senate.

"I urge the Arab Nation to rise against these treacherous Arab leaders and crush them," he said, adding that Iraq had always defended the Arab World against aggression and had sent troops to help Syria during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

The Senate called Sunday for a halt to hostilities and a negotiated settlement. A resolution by the Lower House Friday branded the United States a "Great Satan".

The Senate voiced support for Iraq and said the U.S.-led attack was aimed at destroying its military capabilities, continuing Western oppression of the Palestinians and Arabs and controlling Arab wealth.

Pro-Iraqi feelings are running high in the Kingdom and the Senate speeches reflected popular anger against Arab countries allied with Washington.

Hammad Al Farhan, a leading Arab nationalist, said the aim of the attack on Iraq was not to liberate Kuwait but to impose Western hegemony on the region.

"The assault is launched from an Arab country and under Arab cover and I find it very hard for Arab history to wipe out the names of those leaders who collaborated against their nation," he said.

Amin Shukeir, a leader of the pro-Iraqi Baathist Party in Jordan, said anti-Iraq Arab leaders had become tools in the hands of enemies.

"Where is Syria in all this and what is it doing?" asked Ali Abu Nowwar, a former armed forces chief of staff.

"Syria should pull its troops of the Western coalition army and stand by Iraq in the face of America and Zionism," said Ishaq Al Farhan, a leading mem-

ber of Jordan's powerful Muslim Brotherhood.

Following the session the Senate issued a statement voicing absolute support for the Iraqi heroic stand in the face of American aggression and calling on the Arab and Islamic nations to rally to the aid of the Iraqi people to thwart America's drive to impose hegemony on the Arab Nation.

The Senate statement expressed support for His Majesty King Hussein's call on the international community to take speedy measures for halting the war and open the way of serious efforts to solve the crisis peacefully.

The American aggression on Iraq came at a critical moment in the Arab Nation's history, and at a time when the Iraqi military and scientific power was growing in strength and intensifying giving support for the Arab and Islamic renaissance, the statement noted.

But, it said, the United States was able through influencing the Security Council to impose hegemony on the Council's resolutions at a time when the Soviet Union was absent from the world political scene, and has succeeded in imposing a blockade on Iraq in collaboration with its allies and the enemies of the Arab Nation.

The statement said: "The Upper House of Parliament in Jordan strongly condemns the barbaric onslaught by U.S. President George Bush against the Iraqi people and the Arab and Islamic rights and interests." It continued that U.S. actions contradict the basic human rights and the principles of peace and security.

The statement expressed deep pride in the heroic stand of the Iraqi people and urged all Jordanian citizens to contribute actively towards the national effort under the present circumstances and help with the national mobilisation in support of the government's endeavours.

## Syria under fire in Jordan press

By Ghadeer Taber  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian newspapers launched a scathing attack against Syria Sunday after Damascus indicated that Iraq's missile strikes on Israel did not change Syria's role in the multinational coalition against Iraq.

In the first criticism of its kind against Syria since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, columnists assailed Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salaman's statement that Damascus would fight alongside Iraq against Israel, only if Tel Aviv attacked first.

Syria, still technically at war with Israel, earlier said that it would defend any Arab country, even Iraq, if Israel enters the Gulf war.

"The problem is that until recently, Syria branded the U.S. as an imperialist and described Israel as a Zionist entity and (Yitzhak) Shamir as the terrorist prime minister of Israel," Columnist Fahd Al Fanek wrote in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i. "What has happened to make Israel a recognised state that no one should attack even if it occupies the lands of three Arab states, including Syrian land?"

He said that before Mr. Salaman's statement, Israel's

occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon was regarded as an aggression that "legitimises an Arab response at any time... then we must consider the October war to liberate the Golan Heights as an aggression because Syria started the war."

Describing the intifada as an ongoing sixth Arab-Israeli war, Dr. Fank asked "does Syrian information minister call the Palestinian intifada aggression against the Israeli (defence) forces because the Palestinian people started it?"

Abdul Rahim Omar, in a column also in Al Ra'i, wrote: "Those Americanised Arabs seem to have forgotten what they used to preach about imperialism, Zionism and liberation... those responsible in Syria must have forgotten that they were the masters of rhetoric from behind microphones, leaders of the liberation battles over the air waves and inventors of the idea of strategic balance with the Israeli enemy."

"If Syria says no Arab state should start an attack against or provoke Israel, then how do the rulers of Damascus intend to liberate Palestine, and, if you will, the Golan, without attacking or provoking Israel?"

Al Dastour daily, columnist

Mohammad Jayousi predicted the Arab leaders participating in the anti-Iraq coalition "will fail."

Arafat Hijazi, writing in Sawt Al Shaab, echoed the same theme and said the people of Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt will inevitably turn against their regimes to become the real force behind Iraq.

"The Saudi, Egyptian and Syrian people will lead the Arab and Islamic people behind Iraq after it has humiliated Israel," Mr. Hijazi said.

The attack on Syria in the Jordanian press coincided with Syria's escalation of its media war against Iraq. State-owned Syrian newspaper Sunday described Iraq's missile attacks against Israel as "absurd theatrical movements" aimed at engulfing other Arabs in the "horrible" crisis.

"If the Iraqi president is determined to fight on, betting on reshuffling the cards through firing a few missiles on Israel... then his bet is definitely a lost one," Al Thawra said Sunday.

In an editorial, Al Thawra asserted that Iraq's President Saddam Hussein "was defying the Arab, Muslim and international worlds in a blustering arrogance only present in a phenomenon of megalomania."

## Committee proposes two-week ceasefire

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The committee of Arab-Americans against U.S. intervention in the Gulf Sunday called for an immediate ceasefire lasting for at least two weeks in the four-day old Gulf war to make way for negotiations to replace violence.

The call was made at a press conference held by Dr. Mohammad Saad, chairman of the newly formed committee. Dr. Saad, who has visited Iraq and Kuwait at least twice since Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, said he believed that the ongoing military conflict would expand and engulf other Arab and Muslim countries supportive of Iraq.

These countries, he said, "will send troops to fight against the American led coalition in the Gulf and Muslims would stage a holy war against foreign intervention in the holy places."

"The committee against the U.S. intervention in the Gulf has agreed that the only way to solve

the Gulf crisis is to halt the war for two weeks in order to give peace a chance and to pave the way for negotiations. Some people may say that it would give President Saddam Hussein a chance to regroup, but then President Bush would have enough time to get out of the 'messy box' he put himself into," Saad, who resides in Ephrata, Washington state told the conference.

Saad was in Iraq and Kuwait when the war broke out and also during the pre-war crisis. While reports were issued on the "atrocities" Iraq was inflicting on the Kuwaiti citizens, Saad told the press conference that "I went around to see if the reports had any credibility." As a physician, he said, "I conducted interviews with doctors and other staff at Kuwaiti hospitals and found the reports were baseless."

According to reports, the Iraqis cut off water supplies to hospitals, stole incubators from Baghdad from Kuwait, looted

houses and countless other offences.

"I was there and it is not true," said Saad. He added that: "Amnesty International report was very political and American President (George Bush) seized this opportunity to launch a war against Iraq."

Saad pointed out that one of the problems between the Arabs and the West was a cultural one. "Iraqi President Saddam Hussein may not understand the West but Bush understands less." When Bush says "kick him (Saddam) in the ass" and "I bad it with Saddam Hussein" it becomes a personal vendetta, it is very insulting, Saad asserted.

Asked about the linkage of the Palestinian question, Saad said that "this issue would always be linked no matter what anyone says." The ones pushing for the United States to go to war were the Israelis. "In the United States, the people against the Gulf war were the Christians, it was only pro-

Israelis who were for the war," Saad affirmed.

The press conference, intended to show the other (Iraqi) side of the crisis, brought outrage from the foreign media attending the conference.

One apparently American journalist stood up and asked "are you saying you support Saddam. Are you saying Americans have double standards?"

The extent of sniggering and murmurs from the audience and with the limited English language capability Saad had, he was left unable to answer journalists criticism.

The conference blew out of proportion however when one Jordanian citizen took the initiative to inform the foreign media that "since you do not know about the ethnic groups in Iraq, let me tell them to you."

The bickering went on until it was abruptly broken off by a journalist asking to see the video tapes which were not seen by many journalists who had lost interest by then.

## Brotherhood heightens campaign for Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood group Sunday called on all Arab and Muslim nations to support Iraq and to take part in the ongoing battle between the Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led alliance.

In a statement issued here, the group said that the objectives and purposes of the aggression against Iraq are clear and that there was no justification for anybody to say that he ignores the facts or the genuine purposes.

The statement said the world has been divided into two camps; the camp of the infidels and the camp of faithful and jihad.

Jordan will remain the land of steadfastness and mobilisation, and its people has announced they will be the pioneer of those who will counter the evil plans and greeds in the region.

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani Sunday said that Jordan would be ready to repulse any aggression against its territory, and warned Israel not to expand the scope of war because it will not be in its interest to do so.

In an interview with a British Television network, Kilani said Arabs belong to one nation and that they share the feeling of responsibility towards their kinsmen in Palestine.

Kilani said the King's position is that of the Jordanian people.

He noted that the Gulf crisis is an inter-Arab issue, which should have been dealt with by the Arabs themselves.

Kilani added: "If Arabs listened to King Hussein's advice during the Cairo summit, the world could have avoided havoc of a devastating war."

## Jordanian unionists describe steadfastness of Iraqi people

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the central council of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, Mohammad Samih, and secretary of the General Services Union, Ahmad Al Khudari Sunday affirmed that the Iraqis were determined to secure victory through safeguarding their national front, increasing production and defending their country.

Samih and Khudari, who were in Baghdad on Jan. 17 when war broke out, said the moral of the Iraqi people was very high and that people were dancing in the streets in expression of their longing for the great battle.

They said life was normal in Baghdad and people were going

to their work without disruption. Production has increased because workers wanted to contribute to the battle by enhancing their work, Samih and Khudari noted.

Khudari said that trade unions had formed working and emergency committees in work sites to deal with any emergency. He added that hotel owners were ready to put their hotels at the disposal of the committees for that purpose.

Samih, Khudari and 95 other Jordanians took part in a peace march organised in Baghdad last week. They carried with them medical supplies.

Also returning to Amman Friday were some Arab women

who were aboard the peace-ship (Jbn Khaldoun), which carried milk and medicine to the Iraqi children.

The ship, which was intercepted and exposed to harassment by the U.S. Navy, had 320 women on board. The women came from 12 Arab countries.

Head of the Libyan delegation, Zahra Abu Al Qasem described the suffering of the women aboard the ship, saying that such suffering was only a symbol of the suffering of the Arab Nation.

She expressed dismay at the Arab silence over the bad and barbaric treatment they received at the hands of marines on Dec. 26.

The Arab women have demonstrated courage in the face of harassment they received by the Americans.

She called on Arabs to skip their differences and to unite to repulse the barbaric aggression against the whole Arab Nation.

Head of the Sudanese delegation, Alawiya Mousa, said the U.S. marines broke into the ship and fought with the passengers.

This inhuman treatment clearly exposes the artificial Western civilisation, she added.

Despite all difficulties and problems, the mission has achieved its objectives in exposing the uncivilised manner in which the West dealt with Arab women, she concluded.

## Minister inspects Jordan Valley hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Adnan Al Jaljouli Sunday inspected hospitals in North and South Shouneh and was briefed on the preparations made by the two hospitals to deal with any emergency. The minister voiced satisfaction with the level of arrangements made, saying that "such arrangements would meet the needs of the region in normal and emergency situations."

Jaljouli said the ministry was

working, within its resources, to provide these hospitals with opticians and orthopaedists.

The minister visited the health department in the North Shouneh district and was briefed on the emergency plan, which calls for mobilising four health centres for the purpose of performing first aid and evacuation of injuries.

In South Shouneh, the minister met with Lower and Upper House members and hospital

staff and discussed with them the emergency preparations in the district.

The minister called on all hospital personnel to make every possible effort to provide the best services to the citizens.

The South Shouneh mayor offered one of the municipality's cars for use by the hospital in emergency.

The minister also visited Maaddi health centre in Deir Alla.

## College for engineering accredited

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Higher Education announced Sunday that the Amman College for Engineering has been transformed into a fully fledged university college for applied engineering and will award its graduates BSC degrees.

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) has taken this step in order to provide the country with applied engineering personnel who are in demand at present in Jordan and abroad, a senior ministry official said.

Graduates of the new college

will automatically be recognised by and registered with the Jordanian Engineers' Association (JEA), the official said. The new college, the official noted, is offering courses in branches of applied engineering which include electromechanics, air conditioning, refrigeration, central heating, chemical industries, computers, electricity, road and bridge construction and treatment of waste water.

The official said that the new university college has not yet issued its statutes due to the

delay in the completion of the higher education law which is still pending approval by the Lower House of Parliament.

He noted however, that the Ministry of Higher Education can see no obstacle in the way of the training courses and students will be able to follow their courses on schedule and according to the set timetable.

He said that the various facilities and laboratories and workshops for applied engineering training were installed in the 1989-90 academic year.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1975  
جوردين تايمز جريدة عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## In war: First victim is truth

A CLEAR picture of the war in the Gulf is still difficult to assemble. The gap remains too large between what the two sides are saying for anyone to claim any success in discerning accurately the situation on the ground. What is evident, however, is that the Americans have been too optimistic about their chances of winning the war "rapidly and decisively."

If we are to go by what U.S. officials have been saying, the war would be over by now, in favour of the U.S. of course. But we should not be so naive as to believe that America's six-month-old war of nerves against Iraq and its president has not spilled over into the war days as well.

Saddam Hussein gave a speech to his people yesterday in which he volunteered to state that Iraq's military might is still largely intact, and that his greater response to the aggression against his country is yet to come.

Depending on one's perspectives, one chooses to believe what one wants. However, our feeling is that the Iraqi president was telling the truth when he said Iraq had indeed prepared for a long war and did in fact base its strategy on absorbing the first strike which the Americans launched rather than start the war itself.

If this needs proof, consider what actually happened during the first two days of the war. On Jan. 17 the Americans contended that Iraq's air force was totally destroyed. It turned out that it was not as the Americans themselves went back on their word only hours later.

Also on the first day of the war Iraq's elite Republican Guards were decimated, according to Pentagon communications at the time. The second day they were annihilated. The third day, however, it was attacked. Just how an annihilated, decimated army can be attacked afterwards is something we cannot understand. But this is the way the Americans are telling their story. How do they expect anybody to believe them?

The same applies to Iraqi Scuds and to spreading rumours that Iraq was about to surrender.

But turning to Iraq once again: Saddam Hussein's promise that his army was still strong and capable of retaliating materialised in only a matter of hours. Within the space of minutes, Iraqi missiles fell on Riyadh, Dhahran and Bahrain. Those rockets were no less than the Scuds that the Americans were supposed to have destroyed in the initial wave of attacks on Jan. 17.

There is a story to be told here: Other than keeping a tight lid on their casualties, the Bush administration is misinforming its own people of what is really happening in the theatre of operations in the Gulf. The Iraqis, on the other hand, may not be informing us or their people accurately on the progress of the war and their own losses. But at least they have not gone as far as the Americans in misleading us.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

IN REMARKS at a press conference Saturday, His Majesty King Hussein urged concerned parties and the international community to help stop the conflict in the Gulf and open the door for just peace. Al Ra'i daily said Sunday. In his statement, the King was careful to remind the world that the devastating war in the Gulf has so far witnessed the use of explosives hitting Iraqi positions equal in magnitude to the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in Japan in the Second World War. The paper noted. The King's call to the world to take action and stop the war was meant to make the world community realise the scale of destruction which wars do to nations and that they can never make peace or impose capitulation on others, but tend to sow hatred and malice, the paper pointed out. Those involved in the aggression on Iraq, the paper said, should realise that the war could spread with the most devastating consequences on the interests of many parties and the world's economy, the paper said. It stressed that there is no alternative to political dialogue and negotiations and there is no alternative to settling the Palestine question along with the Gulf issue and other problems plaguing the Arab region if a just peace is to be achieved.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that had it not been for Jordan Radio and Television, the local listeners would not have known the truth about the ongoing scenario in the Gulf simply because neighbouring Arab radio stations are competing with one another in order to show as much hostility towards Iraq as does the Israeli radio. Fakhr Kassar says that radio stations and foreign news agencies have been propagating hostile reports about Iraq and regrettably Arab radio stations except for Jordan Radio have been aiding these stations in their propaganda campaign on Iraq. These Arab radio stations are located in the capitals of those states which stand against Arab unity and are arrayed behind the United States which is waging aggression on Iraq, says the writer. Kassar says it is incumbent upon the Jordanian public to remain vigilant and listen to the voice of reason coming from Radio Jordan and Baghdad to know the truth about the present fighting in the Gulf region. Radio Jordan has been realistic in dealing with news reports without exaggeration and without deceiving the listeners, he adds. The writer calls on the public to fight all hostile rumours and enemy propaganda campaigns and urges the Ministry of Information to allow Radio Jordan and Jordan Television to extend their broadcasting hours so as to offer the listeners more coverage and more truth.

# Americans and Patriots: Israel swallows the pill

By George S. Hawatmeh

Dr. Ralph Bunch, the late international statesman who served as acting U.N. mediator in the Middle East in 1948-49, once said: "The Israelis know very well when to start, but to their misfortune they do not know where to stop. This has been the cause of their tragedy throughout history."

Dr. Bunch did not live long enough to see Israel's involvement in the war for the Gulf today. If he did, he would probably think that his statement was never more right and applicable than in the current crisis.

The world had a golden opportunity not only to solve the Gulf crisis, but also the Palestinian problem, just before U.S. President George Bush ordered his and his allies' troops into action against Iraq on Jan. 17.

The Israelis, and of course

their American backers, saw it differently. This was an opportunity not for peace but to assert their hegemony over the whole area. A new world and regional order could be built on the ashes of the Saddam Empire. The stage would then be set for the powerful Israeli-American combine to dominate the scene for many years to come or even probably for ever. To them war was the answer.

Only five days have passed since the start of that mad onslaught against Iraq and its people, and it is thus too soon to claim that anybody has a clear sight of the picture.

It is nevertheless necessary and timely to draw one, rather important, conclusion from what has already taken place on the ground here in the Middle East.

Israel wanted a war against

Iraq started, yet did not know that one of the main premises upon which the Jewish state predicated its whole existence has become the war's first major victim.

Since the creation of their state in 1948, the Israelis had always prided themselves in and frequently boasted about the fact that they would never look for anyone to fight their battles; that they would themselves take care of their security needs, and that they are fully capable of ensuring their safety and defence all on their own.

They stated and stressed this to everybody, but especially to the Americans. They sometimes went further: Israel is not only able to defend itself but it can defend itself without a gentle lifting of a finger to help; it can also fight the Soviet Union alongside or on behalf of the Americans.

Such arrogance sold well — until the first Scud missiles started falling on Haifa and Tel Aviv early on Friday. After a largely superficial and ceremonial debate on whether to send their air force to retaliate against Iraq, the Israelis succumbed to the inevitable. They decided to call in American troops to defend them. Israel, the mightiest military power in the Middle East which had always insisted on self-protection, has finally admitted its weakness and vulnerability. Everything in its possession, including American-made technological and military superiority over the Arabs, was not enough to protect the state from missile attacks launched by a country that has been under total siege for six months and under the heaviest aerial bombardment in history.

As if it was not enough for

the Israeli leaders to quietly swallow their pride and take back everything they had said about their indigenous invincibility, they also had to show film of the Patriot missiles' arrival in Israel, escorted of course by the very American soldiers whose intervention on behalf of the Jewish state the Israelis had always spurned.

Gloating over this major Israeli failure is tempting but not sufficient. There has to be a lesson that the Israelis have to learn from all this. It is essentially the same old message that peace-makers and people of goodwill have always tried to get across to them — without success. Military might alone can never ensure for a state its security. The desire of one country for absolute security means absolute insecurity for all the others. The nation born by the sword must live by

it. Israel must understand that the logic of force on which it has always relied, without even attempting to reach a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, is ultimately fatal and self-destructive.

Having swallowed a bitter pill, and suffered immense psychological damage, in only a few days of fighting in the Gulf, the Israelis can imagine what is likely to happen if this war escalates into the use of mass destruction weapons. Their legendary myopia should not prevent them from thinking beyond this war either.

Those who are underwriting Israeli intransigence and giving her a false sense of security should equally know that encouraging Israel to stay its present course can only lead towards her, and possibly their own, destruction.

## Ozal, military reported at odds over war

By Jonathan C. Randal

ANKARA — U.S. warplanes based at a Turkish air base bombed targets in Iraq early this morning. Western diplomats said, sparking a dispute over the nature of their mission and reportedly reviving longstanding tensions between President Turgut Ozal and his military command.

Hours after the Turkish parliament granted war powers to Ozal's government and authorised U.S. planes to launch offensive strikes from Incirlik Air Base, near the southeastern city of Adana, Turkish journalists reported between 25 and 30 U.S. planes taking off at 1:00 a.m. from the base and landing there three hours later. The parliament's action overrode portions of a treaty between Turkey and the United States that said the base could only be used for NATO operations.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry initially described the operation as "night training mission," and a U.S. Air Force spokeswoman declined to comment on "operations at this time."

But Western diplomats confirmed that the aircraft bombed targets in Iraq. They said some of the planes refuelled at another NATO air base at Batman, less than 90 miles northwest of Turkey's 206-mile border with Iraq. Incirlik is 440 miles from the frontier.

Turkish newspapers reported that the planes had attacked Iraqi mobile missile launchers.

By later afternoon, the Foreign Ministry said U.S. use of Turkish bases had been "expanded," while insisting that Turkey did not intend to attack Iraq unless attacked itself.

Appearing on television tonight, Ozal reassured that the U.S. planes had been on a training mission, then said that they "might have gone on."

Apparently angered by the changing government descriptions of the raids, the Turkish General Staff issued an unusually blunt statement denouncing government efforts to make the military assume responsibility for deciding what role the Turkish-based planes may play in the

U.S.-led war against Iraq.

Coming six weeks after Gen. Necip Torumtay, chief of Turkey's General Staff, resigned in reported protest against being largely cut out of negotiations on military cooperation with the United States, the military command's statement appeared to be another warning of displeasure with Ozal's Gulf policy.

The General Staff's principal objection appeared to be the Ozal-dominated cabinet's decision Thursday night to make the military command responsible for approving the use of Turkish bases for American strikes against Iraq. Government spokesman Mehmet Yazar announced that "we don't have to wait for an attack to use foreign forces at the base because the Turkish General Staff has been given the required instructions regarding the bases."

The General Staff responded with a statement saying it "has been given no authority to authorise or prevent United States aircraft based at Incirlik from taking off."

"In no democratic country in the world does a General Staff have such authority," it added. "Traditionally, the government gives the Turkish General Staff an order and the (General Staff) operates accordingly."

Informed sources said that a number of key generals held a long meeting Thursday night. After midnight, according to the semi-official Anatolia news agency, the Turkish air force commander, Gen. Siyani Tastan, and Gen. Dogan Gunes, Torumtay's successor as chief of staff, consulted first with Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut and later with Ozal.

Particularly angering the Turkish military, informed sources said, was Ozal's reported determination to involve Turkey in the war in apparent violation of a Turkish policy of "peace at home, peace with the world," first voiced by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, founder of the modern Turkish state. Turkey has been a staunch member of NATO, guarding the alliance's southern flank against the Soviet threat for more than 40 years, but traditionally has wanted no part in its

Arab neighbours' often-troubled politics.

There have long been tensions between Turkey's civilian government and its armed forces, which have seized power three times since 1960. The most recent coup was staged in 1980; after two years, the military returned power to a civilian government.

Meanwhile today, Western diplomatic sources reported the arrival of 48 additional American fighter aircraft at Incirlik. That doubling the number of foreign planes allowed at the base was authorised Sunday when Ozal met Secretary of State James Baker here.

Anatolia reported that the number of Iraqi soldiers fleeing across the Turkish border reached 28 today. A Turkish official said 10 soldiers took refuge in police stations — the Washington Post.

## Turkey is now party to the war

The following is a statement by the Turkish Democratic Left Party Chairman Bulent Ecevit on Turkish parliament's vote to give the U.S.-led allies logistic support in the Gulf.

The decision takes in the Grand National Assembly yesterday with the votes of the ruling party members who act under orders from President Ozal, is dragging Turkey into the Gulf war and turning it into a possible target for Iraq.

Soon after the voting in the parliament, President Ozal appeared all smiles in an American TV interview, boasting to admit that American fighter planes were now free to use Turkish territory and airspace in operations against Iraq.

Turkey has been dragged into World War I as a result of a secret agreement between Commander-in-Chief Enver Pasha and the Germans which allowed two fore-



even a large section of this small electorate is against Turkey's involvement in the war.

Turkey now goes a step further than providing the USA and its "coalition" partners in the Gulf war with logistic support and is actually taking part in the war — before even distributing gas masks to the people in the regions which may become the primary

the government, the ruling party members who act as subjects to President Ozal will carry a greater burden of responsibility than the president himself, since he is an "irresponsible" person in the legalistic sense of the term, as well as psychologically.

Even if Turkey does not face an attack as a result of this decision her relations with the peoples of the Arab countries will be seriously damaged.

During the parliamentary debate yesterday, Prime Minister Akbulut asserted that the opposition had not come forth with any alternative policy for the Gulf crisis. This may be true with regard to the opposition parties within the parliament. But obviously the prime minister ignores the detailed and comprehensive peace plan of the Democratic Left Party simply because it is outside the parliament for the time being as a result of the distorted election system.

If Turkey is attacked, the ruling party members who act as subjects to President Ozal will carry a greater burden of responsibility than the president himself, since he is an "irresponsible" person in the legalistic sense of the term, as well as psychologically.

— but this time in the open and with the approval of the parliamentary majority. Yet this parliamentary majority is a fake one, representing only about twenty per cent of the electorate: and

targets of missiles with chemical warheads.

If Turkey is attacked and faces any loss of life as a result of the parliamentary decision taken at the request of the president and

ment of the aircraft carrier. A senior Iraqi diplomat said Saturday that Iraq had already retaliated for missile attacks by taking part in a raid on his country. Abdul Razzak Al Hashemi, Iraq's ambassador to France, made the comment in an interview from Paris.

## Launchers

(Continued from page 1)

"About 300 fighters and interceptors were left on the ground to fight raiding Western warplanes."

The official was also quoted as saying chemical weapons plants and medium-sized nuclear reactors were dismantled and concealed in bunkers built specially for such an eventuality in 1984.

He added that eight-to-12 metre deep shelters have been built underground in Kuwait and around Iraq's southern city of Basra to accommodate 400,000 Iraqi troops with their arms and supplies, according to Al Diyar.

"These are the main force Iraq is saving to confront a ground assault by the Western alliance after the waves of destructive air attacks are completed," the official was quoted as saying.

Charge d'Affaires Khodeir also said that Iraq would unleash chemical weapons against Israel if the Jewish state attacks it with nuclear weapons, according to the newspaper.

"We also have other surprises," Mr. Khodeir said, without elaborating. U.S. commanders had earlier reported about 30 Iraqi mobile missile launchers, presumably spotted via reconnaissance over the last five months.

## Israel

(Continued from page 1)

action to respond," to Iraqi attacks, Israel Television said. "There was no deal on bringing the Patriots to Israel," said Danny Naveh, an aide to Defence Minister Arens. "It was in the framework of American willingness to aid Israel's air defence. This is not tied to any Israeli obligation."

Washington is eager to keep Israel out of the Gulf war to safeguard its coalition with Arab states, rushed the Patriots to Israel and sent a senior delegation headed by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger for a second visit in nine days.

In a visit on Jan. 12 five days before U.S.-led forces launched massive air strikes on Iraq — Mr. Eagleburger tried to dissuade Israel from retaliating for an Iraqi attack.

After the first full cabinet meeting since at least 11 Iraqi Scud missiles hit Israeli cities, slightly wounding 28 people, cabinet members said there was no question of whether the Jewish state would retaliate — only when and how.

"The essence of the policy is that Israel will exercise its right of retaliation in the appropriate time for Israeli interests," Health Minister Ehud Olmert told reporters.

"This right will be maintained by us and will be applied at the right place at the right time so that the other side will be totally surprised and unable to defend itself. I hope that it will be done," he said.

"We feel the obligation to go right in there and do the job,"

Yossi Ben-Aharon, director-general of Prime Minister Shamir's office, told Israeli radio.

He added: "We cannot do it in a vacuum. It has to be done in coordination with all the powers that are involved there. It has to be done in a way that will not widen the conflict. It has to be done in a way that is effective and produces results and not just to relieve oneself of one's feeling of frustration."

Asked if Israel thought it could accomplish things the coalition had not, Hawkish Science Minister Yuval Neeman said: "I believe that we are capable of doing things that are perhaps somewhat better than what's been done."

Mr. Neeman, a physicist who helped engineer Israel's nuclear programme, refused to elaborate.

Israeli Ambassador to Belgium Avraham Primor said in Brussels Israel would not respond with nuclear arms to an Iraqi chemical weapons strike, reiterating the Jewish state's declared policy not to be the first to introduce nuclear arms to the Middle East.

In Washington, the White House said Mr. Eagleburger was to discuss the situation "in light of the Scud missile attacks."

Sunday's cabinet meeting was the first called by Prime Minister Shamir since the Gulf war erupted on Thursday. It came after the first night in three in which Israelis have not been awakened by wailing sirens signalling a missile attack.

Ministers arrived at the meeting with gas masks, which have been distributed to all Israelis as a defence against chemical weapons. Cabinet secretary

## LETTERS

### A call to the Arab and Islamic World

IN these days our Arab and Islamic World have become subject to an unprecedented brutal and fierce annihilation and destruction campaign lead by the devil symbol, the United States, and its cheap ridiculously manipulated allies from all over the world.

The apparent target for this brutal campaign is our brother country Iraq, but it is quite obvious that the main target is what Iraq represents: Islam and Islamic power that might threaten the Imperialist-Zionist domination and interests in the area and in the whole world.

It was not enough for the Imperialist-Zionist circuits to see Al Aqsa Mosque suffering under Israeli occupation, they are now taking full attack on Islam last sites of Mecca and Medina to kill the Islam and the Islamic spirits and suppress Muslim forever. These targets can be brought about by occupying the holy lands in the Arab Peninsula, protect and strengthen Israel and wipe out any Arab or Islamic power in the area.

The USA ugly coalition has already deprived Arab and Islamic nations from their oil wealth and has turned the local regimes into dummy slaves serving the Imperialist-Zionist interests and obeying their orders.

Tens of thousands of tonnes of devastating bombs are falling daily on our Muslim brothers in Iraq, thousands of the most sophisticated death carrying warplanes, long and medium range rockets of all kinds are killing children, women and innocent old people just for the sake of killing and destroying, in a coward unjust and unholy destruction campaign.

In the light of the above and before it becomes too late we call on your conscious and your minds to stand up and protest by every means available to stop the brutal campaign of destruction against Iraq, to defend Islam and Islamic power, to save the lives of Muslims and to prevent the ghosts from achieving their wild goals. The holy war of Islam must be declared now, the satan should be fought and stopped. Every Muslim should stand up now and face bravely the danger on Islam. The Imperialist-Zionist campaign should be defeated and no doubt that God will award us with victory Islam will prevail.

On behalf of union of mine workers in Jordan  
Khaled Shreem



## Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

President Saddam said anyone taking up the "holy war" against Iraq's enemies could expect to be treated as a prisoner of war (PoW) if captured, in accordance with international conventions, and would be released after the war ends.

He did not refer to reports earlier in the day by Iraqi media that Baghdad television broadcast interviews with several men it said were captured allied pilots.

On Saturday, U.S. officials in Washington summoned an Iraqi diplomat to warn him that Iraq should abide by international conventions in handling any PoWs.

"When the battle becomes a comprehensive one with all types of weapons the deaths on the allied side will be increased with God's help," President Saddam said in the broadcast.

"When the deaths and dead mount on them the infidels will leave and the flag of Allah Akbar will fly over the mother of all battles," he said.

At the end of the address President Saddam called on all Arabs to rise against the multinational coalition.

"I want to say to all Arabs and all believers everywhere that you have a holy duty to wipe out the group of infidels and the bad leadership everywhere and to target their interests, anywhere," President Saddam said.

Here is a partial text of the address by President Saddam.

"Our land forces have not been used in the battle until now and only a fraction of our air forces have been used."

"Our army air wing and naval forces have not been used."

"...They know that the Iraqis will fight and they will fight persistently and continuously."

"We tell all the Arabs, all the believing strugglers... wherever they are to rise to jihad and struggle by targeting the forces of evil, treachery and corruption everywhere and targeting their interests wherever they are."

"This is your duty which should be linked to the struggle of your brethren in Iraq. You will be part of our valiant armed forces through your struggle and the efforts made by the believers, our strugglers."

"And if you are seized by the enemy you will have a reward from God and you will be inevitably released when the war is over according to international laws and conventions on the release of prisoners of war."

"Therefore you would have been pleasing your God and your conscience and you would have been loyal to your principles and values."

"God is Great, God is great and shame to the shameless."

## Prince

(Continued from page 1)

taking part in the aggression against Iraq, Crown Prince said:

"Well, clearly the Jordanian Parliament is a reflection of the constituency feeling of many constituents... a unanimous decision of all members of Parliament. I can't judge what they have to say. But let me remind you that there has been some room in all capitals including Western capitals, during the early days of the crisis — I wish that there has been more room — for quiet diplomacy. I wish that the single might in this military option has been pursued could

have been compared with diplomatic initiatives. We feel extremely vulnerable in this country. We do not have weapons of mass destruction, we do not have Americans manning Patriot missiles. We do not even have Stinger missiles, which were kept from us at the time we asked for them from the United States and yet we are not with or against anyone. We are effectively standing on principles, searching for peace, and political solutions, if we are given a chance."

The Crown Prince said that the Jordanians and Palestinians are harmonious in the perception of developments in the region. We are very clear in the fact that over the past several months, when democracy started in Jordan, there has been greater openness than at any time in the past.

"As far as alienating the West, we are different in views and opinions, but we have channels of communication, including this one. If I may say, and I think our credibility is not based on being put in the cupboard one day, and being dined on the other, but based on the constituency of our policies."

I have noticed with interest Mr. Owens suggesting that the future of the Arab-Israeli affair would be discussed between Mr. Shamir and Mr. Assad following the crisis and referring to a role for the Palestinians. I hope that we can see a regional order developing, not on the basis of friendly Syrians today and inimical Syrians yesterday, or enemy Iraqis today and friendly Iraqis yesterday, but on the basis of transactional thinking and regional solutions. It is only in that way that we can contain the kind of violent statements which have been made, not only in this capital but in so many Arab and Muslim capitals."

The interviewer asked: "Can you reassure us that you and your brother are not going to act on that Jordanian Parliament's resolution to strike at American interests?"

The Crown Prince replied: "Our position is that we will not become a battlefield. We will stand up for our sovereignty and our integrity. We are a responsible and contributing member to the community of states and to regional stability. This has been very clear. We have paid the price for 25 years. We have sought a peaceful negotiation to the Arab-Israeli conflict and today you say that we have alienated the West. Why? Because we have not joined a military coalition. I hope that our Western interlocutors will be consistent with us and the credibility can be maintained."

The Crown Prince said: "Our position is that we will not become a battlefield. We will stand up for our sovereignty and our integrity. We are a responsible and contributing member to the community of states and to regional stability. This has been very clear. We have paid the price for 25 years. We have sought a peaceful negotiation to the Arab-Israeli conflict and today you say that we have alienated the West. Why? Because we have not joined a military coalition. I hope that our Western interlocutors will be consistent with us and the credibility can be maintained."

## Initiatives

(Continued from page 1)

The message to Mr. Mitterrand pleaded for the "rehabilitation of political efforts as the only way to a peaceful solution to the crisis, in cooperation with Arab countries and the Security Council."

Similar messages were sent to the European Community, Sweden, Yugoslavia, India and Indonesia.

The Security Council president Saturday handed a Soviet peace proposal and an Indian plan for a ceasefire to the Iraqi ambassador.

Neither plan has the backing of the whole council, and there are serious obstacles to both. Zairean Ambassador Adeito Nzengeya, who presides over the

council this month, met with Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari to discuss the peace proposals some council members are advocating.

After the Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait expired, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said his government would support Iraq's demand that all Middle East problems be addressed if Iraq would announce its withdrawal. Iraq did not show no inclination to leave Kuwait, and the Iraqi government has reiterated several times this week that Kuwait is the 19th province of Iraq, and they will never relinquish it.

The State Department has also announced reservations about Mr. Gorbachev's initiative, which pledged his support for a "mechanism" to solve all Middle East security issues.

U.S. officials suspect that the "mechanism" would be a Middle East peace conference. The United States opposes linkage of Iraq's withdrawal to any other issue and Israel opposes any such conference.

The other peace plan that the Iraqi diplomat received was a proposal for a 48-to 72-hour ceasefire of the U.S.-led allied campaign against Iraq.

Algeria first raised the idea Thursday, and the Indian ambassador discussed it with the Security Council president on Friday.

The United States and Britain, the two most active coalition members, would block the council from amending its Resolution 678, which authorised the use of "all necessary means" to drive Iraq out of Kuwait after Jan. 15.

One U.S. official said on condition of anonymity that the Security Council will not meet formally again on the Gulf crisis until the previous resolutions have been implemented — when Iraq is out of Kuwait and the emir's government returns to power.

Mr. Anbari told the council president that he would convey the ideas to Baghdad, but noted that U.S. bombing of the Iraqi capital has made communications with his government difficult.

Ecuador's ambassador, Jose Ayala Lasso, was to meet the council president Sunday on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, to discuss the views of the 103-nation group on the crisis.

## Hardliners

(Continued from page 1)

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Mr. Mohtashemi suggested Iraqis should forget eight years of war with Iraq.

"The issue is not about the past events between Iran and Iraq. American marines and Western crusaders have come to destroy Iraq's war machine first before turning against the Islamic Republic of Iran," he told his fellow deputies.

"Let us live and die with honour. To live under the shadow of America's bayonets is a shame to us. It will be captivity and disgrace to us."

"The fact that some glib or timid individuals think we should not worry about this war and the people should not be concerned is a source of great regret..." he said.

The Society of Combatant Clergymen, an umbrella group for clerics, urged Iraqis to take to the streets in protest against the war launched by the United States and its allies with massive

air strikes on Iraq early Thursday.

The group described the war as an "arrogant move to destroy the human and material resources of Muslims and tip the balance in favour of the usurper Zionist regime."

Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, another deputy, told parliament the U.S.-led attack on Iraq was not aimed at liberating Kuwait but striking at Islam.

"We should not leave the Iraqi people standing alone in this battle since if the United States emerges victorious it will not leave the region easily," he said.

Ayatollah Khalkhali became notorious in the West after he appeared on television poking a stick into the burned corpses of American soldiers who died in 1980 after a failed attempt to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran.

But the daily Jomhuri Eslami, abandoning its usual headline stance, blamed Iraq for the war in the Gulf.

"Direct responsibility of starting the destructive war rests with the Baghdad regime. Now the unity within the ranks of the enemies of the global movement of Islam has been shattered and they are facing one another. This is a divine vengeance," the paper said in an editorial.

Jomhuri Eslami said the West was allied with Iraq during its war with Iran and the two sides were facing "divine retribution" for their anti-Iranian acts.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani urged the Islamic community Sunday to try to end the Gulf crisis.

"It is incumbent on all Muslim countries to make efforts to bring an immediate end to the current crisis in the Persian Gulf and improve the situation through cooperation," he told the new Indonesian ambassador in Tebran.

## Scuds

(Continued from page 1)

In the earlier Dhahran incident, neither U.S. Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams nor Saudi officials in Dhahran could identify the intended target of the Iraqi missiles.

"It's hard to tell precisely where they were aimed," Mr. Williams said in Washington. "The point is they got near Dhahran and we shot them... down."

Williams told reporters that U.S. officials believed the first Iraqi missiles fired Sunday night carried conventional, not chemical, warheads, and were launched from southern Iraq.

He said "obviously the threat continues... the No. 1 priority is to find and destroy all the Scud sites."

Civil Defence authorities in Dhahran, an eastern port city on the Gulf, seemed to be caught off guard by the missile attack.

In addition to the allied military base, the city is the home of Saudi Aramco, the government-owned oil giant.

Iraq fired up to five battlefield missiles into Saudi Arabia near U.S. marines Saturday but the rockets fell into empty desert and did no damage, military officials said.

"Yesterday marine central command reported that a forward unit was receiving incoming rocket fire," said Colonel Gret Pepin, spokesman for the U.S. central command in the Gulf.

He said Iraq appeared to have fired the short-range Frog missiles.

"There still has been no direct hostile confrontation on the ground," he told a regular news briefing.

Col. Pepin said U.S. A-6 and A-10 jets destroyed the frog launchers.

Colonel Ahmad Al Robayan, spokesman for the joint allied forces fighting Iraq, said the missiles with a range of 70 kilometres carried conventional explosives.

Early, allied forces claimed they have disabled Iraq's four primary nuclear research facilities.

The nuclear installations were hit during the first four days of allied air strikes, and chemical and biological weapons facilities suffered considerable damage, said H. Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S. commander of Operation Desert Storm.

"I have very high confidence that those nuclear reactors have been thoroughly damaged and will not be effective for quite some number of years," he said on "Face the Nation" an interview programme on the U.S. television network CBS.

As U.S. bombers pounded Iraq with their heaviest raids so far, speculation grew that allied ground forces might soon engage Iraq's army in Kuwait.

Three days into the war, U.S. military commanders were shifting from a relentless air bombardment of Baghdad and military installations in Iraq to a concentrated pummeling of Baghdad's most elite troops in and near Kuwait.

Military officials referred to the shift to bombing Iraqi troops as "softening up the opposition," in advance of a possible land offensive.

American F-15 and F-111 fighter-bombers have begun missions into Iraq from the north at the U.S.-Turkish base at Incirlik (see page 2).

Regular air missions continued from air bases in Saudi Arabia, but were hampered by heavy cloud cover over Iraq.

Despite the U.S. military assertion that 80 per cent of the thousands of air sorties had hit their targets, military analysts noted that Iraq still has a powerful army and still holds the ground in Kuwait.

Iraq's air force has put up only a slight defence, either because the aircraft were hemmed in shelter by attacks on airfields or because their power was being hobbled for use later.

U.S. officials have been warning all week that the low allied-casualty count so far could change rapidly once ground combat begins.

In other Gulf developments: Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has agreed to discuss the wider problems of the Middle East once the war with Iraq is over, a Luxembourg government spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman said Mr. Levy had spoken by telephone Sunday to Jacques Poos, foreign minister of Luxembourg and current president of the European Community (EC) Council of Ministers.

The two discussed the post-war situation, the spokesman said, adding: "They agreed to discuss solving the problems of the region."

He could not say whether they had specifically mentioned the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

About 100 French women and children flew out of Mauritania Sunday after a week of massive pro-Iraqi demonstrations.

A French diplomat speaking by telephone from the capital Nouakchott said there had been

no threats against them but they thought it safer to leave.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad discussed the Gulf crisis with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Meguid Sunday, officials and diplomats said.

Mr. Meguid, accompanied by Osama Al Baz, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser, arrived unexpectedly in the Syrian capital earlier in the day.

The leader of a Palestinian faction said Iraq's missile attack on Israel prompted the Jewish state for its past treatment of Palestinians.

"Firing the Iraqi missiles on Israel is a real feast for the Palestinians and Arab peoples," said Nayef Hawatme, head of the Syrian-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

"It is also a primary punishment for several years of Israeli aggression on the people of Palestine and the Arabs," said the statement released in Damascus.

Hawatme said it was "the mission of the Palestinian people... to escalate the armed struggle from South Lebanon and back the uprising in the (Israeli-occupied) territories."

Two British minehunters have entered the Gulf to reinforce the ability of the anti-Iraq allies to find and destroy mines, a British navy spokesman said.

He said the minehunters Ladbury and Dulverton had joined three British minehunters already in the waterway.

Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi said Iraq would be forced out of Kuwait but saw heavy casualties for the allied forces as a consequence.

"I can't expect (Iraq) to remain in Kuwait for a long time against this coalition but (it) will bring casualties heavily on this coalition if (it) loses Kuwait," Qadhafi said from Tripoli in an interview with British television.

"I am against Saddam Hussein in Kuwait but I am against this international coalition, this aggression against... innocent people," Col. Qadhafi told Independent Television News.

Col. Qadhafi also said that he would not advocate "terrorism" in support of Iraq.

"No, no, I am absolutely against any kind of terrorism. But there is a difference between terrorism and the just struggle for freedom and for dignity," Col. Qadhafi said.

Egypt has reduced the number of its embassy staff in the Yemeni capital Sanaa to the minimum to protest what it says government-organised anti-Egypt demonstrations.

Ambassador Abdul Rahman

Shamaa and 16 of his staff returned home Saturday in accordance with the decision. Foreign Ministry sources say only nine personnel were left behind in Sanaa to look after the interests of Egyptian workers in Yemen.

The state-owned newspaper Al Gomhuria said Yemeni demonstrators stoned the embassy building and the residence of the Egyptian ambassador in Sanaa for three successive days.

The newspaper did not say when demonstrations took place but said they were organised to protest Egypt's opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Red Sea state of Djibouti, used by France as a military base, has banned demonstrations over the Gulf war, Djibouti radio reported.

The Interior Ministry said protests which took place on Saturday were "prejudicial to the security and peace of the Republic of Djibouti. And for this reason it is not permitted to hold such demonstrations," the radio reported.

Algeria has warned its nationals not to travel abroad for fear of wave of anti-Arab racism in Europe during the Gulf war, the official daily Al Moudjahid said.

"Considering the present situation, the authorities concerned exhort Algerian citizens to avoid travelling abroad, except in cases of necessity," the paper said citing an official statement.

More than 600 bomb scares have kept New York city police busy since the Gulf war began, officials said.

Several underground train lines have been shut down for up to an hour as police investigated reports of suspicious packages.

"Since the battle was launched in the Gulf there have been about 200 bomb scares a day."

## Planes

(Continued from page 1)

capital, the spokesman said the allies had flown more than 7,000 sorties since the start of the war last Thursday.

Twenty-three Iraqis were prisoners as a result of the raids. Besides the 12 originally seized during the attack on oil platforms, bad subsequently been captured from rubber rafts after fleeing the platforms.

"Most of them abandoned the oil platforms and were picked up in rubber rafts," he said.

Also Sunday, Iran's news agency reported that Iraqi TV showed two blindfolded men identified as captured U.S. fliers being paraded through the streets of Baghdad.

No other details were disclosed by the Islamic Republic News Agency, and the U.S. De-

fence Department said it had no "knowledge of the incident."

Iranian TV said that Baghdad TV Sunday aired a 20-minute interview with seven allied pilots, giving their nationalities as American, Italian, British and Saudi.

U.S. officials also said a total of 22 allied soldiers — 13 Americans and nine from other countries — have either been killed or are missing in action.

Iraq said that the town of Takrit, birthplace of President Saddam Hussein, was hit by an "enemy" missile Saturday night.

A military communique read on Radio Baghdad did not say what damage, if any, was caused by the missile strike.

The Iraqi leader was originally known as Saddam Hussein Al Takriti but he later dropped the family name that linked him and several other top leaders to the town north of Baghdad.

Iraq also said Saturday allied planes have bombed the Shiite Muslim holy cities of Najaf and Karbala in central Iraq killing several people.

"Enemy planes raided the holy shrines in Najaf on Friday night. The enemy planes also bombed the city of Karbala which left a number of martyrs and destroyed a number of houses," said a military communique broadcast on Baghdad Radio.

Many Iraqis fled Baghdad and other cities to Najaf and Karbala, believing the two most holy Shiite sites would not be attacked.

The Iraqi News Agency later identified one of the captured airmen as marine pilot Major Clive David, 39, whose aircraft was shot down with a surface-to-air missile in Kuwait City.

There is no Major Clive David on the U.S. list of airmen who are missing in action, the AP said.

Iraq identified another of the prisoners as Lt. Jeffrey Morton Zoon, 27, of attack squadron 30. The U.S. lists a Lt. Jeffrey N. Zoun, 28, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, as among the missing airmen.

The man Iraq identified as Lt. Zoon sent greetings to his parents and sister in the United States, calling on them to pray for peace, INA said. He was quoted in the agency's Arabic language report as saying the U.S. was wrong in attacking Iraq.

A man INA identified as Kuwaiti pilot Mohammad Mubarak Sultan Mubarak purportedly said he feels "miserable for supporting the imperialists, Zionists and (Saudi King) Fahd against Iraq."

## SABEEL HOTEL SUITES

Enjoy the comfort and convenience of a two room suite with first class hotel services, easy access to international communications, plus international direct dialing from the suites, and the Oriental and European cuisine of the

Rozena Restaurant

Tel: 630571-610719 Fax: 630572 P.O. Box 2206 Amman  
A few minutes walk from the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel

**THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE**

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

**AMIN KAHAR & SONS**  
TEL: 604675 604696  
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

**CROWN INT'L EST.**

packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world  
Tel: 604600, Fax: 606832  
The 2228 BESAKO JO  
P.O. Box 122487 AMMAN JORDAN

**EASTERN**

PACKING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES, INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING, AIR & SEA FREIGHT

TEL: 621 775 FAX: 636 270  
TLX: 23 023 POB: 815 408  
AMMAN-JORDAN

**Budget** THE SMART MONEY.

Room & Wheels

\$145 all inclusive

Tel.: 698131

**4 Rent & Sale**

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

**Abdoun Real Estate**  
Tel: 810605, 810609, Fax: 810520

**RENT Saudi Real Estate**

Furnished & unfurnished apartments & villas for rent in West Amman area.

**CALL SOHA**  
Rental Dept. 687821/22

**Ricardo** Amman's exclusive gift shop

Italian shoes, leather goods, perfumes, lighters, watches, pens, silverware, porcelain, crystalware etc.

Shmeisani - Grindlays Bank Bldg.  
Tel. 669 457

**La Cascade**

The first of its kind in Jordan in the world of pastries and cake of all kinds...

Gardens street tel.: 682314, 682315

**RESTAURANT CHINA**

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Alhijyah Girls School

Take away is available

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.  
6:30-Midnight  
Tel. 630668

**PEKING RESTAURANT**

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE

elegant colorful atmosphere moderate prices

Shmeisani Tel: 660250 (closed on Mondays)

**CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT**

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbeque for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialities

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
6:30 - Midnight

**Hashmi Restaurant**

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

Special Executive Lunches

Take away service available

Open Daily 12:30 - 3:30 pm  
7:30 - 11:30 pm

After the Philadelphia Hotel Towards 3rd circle  
Tel: 659519 659520

**LOBBY LOUNGE**

**SABIL DAILY PIANO ENTERTAINMENT**

**The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...**

**DAROTEL**

Amman - Tel. 688193  
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434  
Tel: 23888 DAROTEL JO

**Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen**

**STUDIO HAIG**

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service

Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

\* JUMBO photo size 30x larger

\* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042  
Swefich tel: 823891

**For the best for your MONEY ADVERTISE in the Jordan Times**







# Economy

## Lloyd's insurers open Sunday for first time in 300 years

LONDON (R) — The Lloyd's of London insurance market opened Sunday for the first time in its 300 years as the Gulf war sent rates soaring.

Fear that conditions may change quickly means insurers will only quote Gulf rates short term.

"The reason we are open is because we are only quoting rates 24 hours ahead," said Christopher Rome, a leading war risk underwriter.

He said he had written a few

contracts Sunday morning and had enquiries from oil platform owners and from shippers looking to load Saudi Arabian crude.

A Lloyd's spokesman said around 200 people were scattered around the Lloyd's "room," which is housed in a futuristic building in the City of London, hub of British finance.

The insurance business began in a corner of a coffee shop called Lloyd's 300 years ago. Today, aircraft as well as ships are insured.

Industry sources said rates for

aircraft hull insurance to the Middle East had risen sharply. Cover for a flight to Tel Aviv was quoted at 2.5 per cent of the aircraft's value compared with one per cent Saturday.

They said insurance rates for tankers to northern Saudi Arabia were as high as seven per cent against 3.5 to five per cent at the end of last week.

Oil industry sources say insurance costs will add some 50 cents to the price of a barrel loaded in the western Gulf.

## Yamani: Oil prices could sink to \$12

AMSTERDAM (R) — Oil prices could plunge to \$12 a barrel, former Saudi Arabian oil minister, Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, told a Dutch newspaper.

In an interview with *Krant op Zondag* published Sunday, Yamani said the underlying supply situation to the market would eventually force prices lower.

He said that despite the outbreak of the Gulf war increased output from Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members had compensated for the 4.4 million barrels a day of (b/d) lost Iraqi and Kuwaiti production.

It had also lifted total production by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to 23.5 million b/d.

After a week of wild price swings with a record one-day crash Thursday, the March futures price for North Sea Brent crude, a world benchmark, ended Friday at \$18.20 a barrel. Its lowest level since Iraq invaded Kuwait in Aug.

It shot up as high as \$33.50 on panic buying in the first couple of hours after news of the U.S.-led attack against Iraq. But prices slumped as traders presumed air strikes had removed the threat of Iraq damaging Saudi Arabian oil fields.

Four months ago, Yamani said oil prices might rise to \$60 if war broke out in the Middle East, because prices were then being driven up unnecessarily by oil companies holding on to excessive stocks.

## Egyptian oil prices go down

CAIRO (R) (AP) — Egypt's oil export prices dropped after the Gulf war started and now range between \$16.5 and \$18 a barrel, Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandil was quoted as saying Sunday.

Kandil told *Al-Ahram* newspaper that the new Egyptian export prices reflected the sharp decrease in the world oil market after the U.S.-led allied forces attacked Iraq and Kuwait Jan. 17.

"I followed myself the developments and sudden changes in the world oil markets in the United States, Europe and Asia. Egyptian oil prices on the market were affected by the reductions and for the two past days have ranged between \$16.5 and \$18 a barrel," Kandil told the newspaper.

He did not specify the exact price of each of Egypt's varied crude blends, but said their prices were higher than those of similar blends on the world market.

## G-7 leaders try to show economy can weather war

NEW YORK (R) — The finance leaders of the world's richest nations appear set to close ranks this week to try to convince nervous investors that the world economy can weather a war in the Gulf relatively unscathed.

"We want to let markets know that whatever happens in the Gulf, it's not going to be an economic disaster," said one official, here for a two-day meeting starting Sunday.

The meeting will give finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations their first chance to take attack stock of the world economy since U.S.-led allied forces attacked Iraq Thursday to force it out of Kuwait.

Although the G-7 — the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — are set to discuss a range of issues from the Soviet economy to the dollar, the Gulf war will probably dominate the talks.

U.S. officials said Washington

is likely to ask its allies, particularly Germany and Japan, to contribute more to the war effort and to the hardest-hit developing nations.

So far, news from the war has been good as far as the global economy is concerned. Oil prices plunged and world stock and bond markets bounded higher last week as fears that the war would damage Saudi Arabia's oil fields dissipated.

If sustained, the steep drop in oil prices should prove a tonic to the slowing world economy by paving the way for lower interest rates and higher consumer spending, economists said.

The extraordinary decline in oil prices, assuming they stay down, would clearly have a major effect," Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in a newspaper interview Friday.

But he cautioned against too much optimism, telling the *Wall Street Journal*: "We are still in an unstable environment."

International Monetary Fund managing Director Michel Camdessus is expected to tell finance leaders that the world economy can escape a recession this year if oil prices do not skyrocket.

Officials said the strong economic performance of Germany and Japan will help offset downturns in the United States, Britain and Canada and allow G-7 growth, to average between one per cent and 1.5 per cent this year.

The need to put forward a united front to the markets now that war has broken out will probably persuade G-7 members to temporarily set aside their economic differences.

Those differences arise mainly because the countries in the group are entering different stages of the economic cycle.

The United States, Britain, Canada, France and Italy worry about an economic slowdown and want to cut interest rates. But Germany and Japan, whose economies are still growing strongly,

are more concerned about inflation and do not seem willing to join in any rate cut.

France and Italy have also voiced concerns about the dollar, which has dropped some 20 per cent against the Deutschmark over the past year. They worry the weak dollar will boost U.S. inflation and also make American products super-competitive on world markets.

But Germany and Japan appear unfazed by the dollar's decline, and the United States itself seems a bit divided, with its central bank more concerned than its Treasury Department.

Such differences, however, are likely to be swept aside as G-7 policy makers band together to try to show financial markets that they are in control.

"We're going to be closely working together to maintain stability in markets," a senior U.S. official said. "That's the message that will come from this meeting."

## Iran makes big financial adjustment

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's central bank said Sunday it would allow all foreign currency transactions to be made at a free market rate in what amounted to a major devaluation of the rial.

A statement by central bank governor Mohammad Hussein Adeli said hard cash would be sold to travellers and businessmen at fluctuating rates by all branches of Iranian banks.

Asked what this meant, a central bank spokesman said the banks would use the free market rate.

Adeli said the new measures, which are effective when banks reopen Monday, provided the best prospects for foreign investment in Iran.

If the new rules are put into general effect, foreign companies will begin to see Iran as one of the cheapest rather than one of the most expensive places to conduct business.

Adeli said Iranian banks would also provide hard currency for imports of all goods authorised by the commerce ministry without limitation as of Monday.

## Gulf war shuts down Indian stock market

BOMBAY (R) — The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will be closed Monday due to the Gulf war, the house's executive director said Sunday.

"We have decided rather reluctantly not to open tomorrow (Monday) ... it is our sincere endeavour to open the market Tuesday," M. R. Mayya said.

"Free trading is impossible and regulations are ineffective in a war situation," he added.

The exchange, which had been on an unprecedented bull run until the end of last year, has been closed since Jan. 15 when the U.N. deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait expired.

The BSE index touched an all-time high of 1,559.40 on Oct. 9 last year before sliding to 1,017.72 last Monday. The index was 778.64 a year ago.

"I believe the market will start stabilising," Mayya said.

"Kerb deals," stock transactions made outside the exchange floor last week, "indicated the market was stabilising and I expected Bombay to rule steady," he said.

One broker said if investors

feel the Gulf war will be relatively short then the market will begin to recoup some of its losses.

"The way the market reacts when it opens depends on what is happening in the war at that point in time," broker Hemendra Kothari said.

"It's still too early to predict. But initial indications are that it looks like the war might get over earlier than expected. So I think the market would react favourably," he added.

But others had a bleaker outlook.

"Taxes will likely go up in the upcoming budget and corporate profits will shrink in the coming months," stock broker Anand Dhalwal said, predicting the BSE index could fall to 750.

One bright spot appeared at the weekend when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a \$1.79 billion loan for India to shore up its balance of payments position.

India will receive \$777 million under a first credit tranche and more than \$1 billion under the IMF's compensatory financing facility to help pay for the higher cost of imported oil.

Both are five-year loans with an interest of nine per cent. "The crisis in the Middle East has had severe and widespread effects on the economy," the IMF said.

**Jordan Times**  
Tel: 667171

## Jerusalem Jewel Hotel

Jerusalem Jewel Hotel welcomes visitors and groups for a comfortable stay in Jordan. The hotel is situated in Abdali area and consists of 18 double-occupancy rooms, each with a telephone and a bathroom.

Restaurant, lounge and parking are available. Very reasonable prices for groups.

For Information call: 623725, 622057 and 649482.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Sunday, January 20, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	JAS			JAS	
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	655.0	659.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	301.9	304.9
Pound Sterling	1294.8	1302.6	Dutch guilder	393.4	395.8
Deutschmark	443.5	446.2	Swedish crown	118.4	119.1
Swiss franc	528.2	531.4	Italian lira (for 100)	39.0	39.4
French franc	130.4	131.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	215.5	216.8

**MAINTENANCE AND REFILLING OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**  
Check out your Fire Extinguisher free of charge. Our technicians are ready to do that upon your call at any time and our workshop is ready to refill all kinds of extinguishers.  
Call us now to secure your safety  
Moh'd Abbasi & Sons Co. Tel. 651942

**NEWLY OPENED VANDA HOTEL**  
☆☆☆☆☆  
JOUNIEH — LEBANON  
For reservation and more information please call AQUAMARINA HOTEL-CLUB  
Tel. No. 03-316250/11/2/3

TODAY AT

Cinema CONCORD Tel: 677420

ROBO COB "2"

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155

HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema NJJOURN Tel: 675571

Noor Al Sharif/Mahmoud Yassin/Shahira/Saffiyah Omar

Night and Traitors (Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.  
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema PHILADELPHIA Tel: 634144

Two Moon Junction

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema PLAZA Tel: 699238

KARIM ABU SHAQRA and AL AMIRA AL SAGHIRA in SHAME ON YOU, RUSTUM (Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:45 p.m.

Cinema RAINBOW Tel: 625155

HONEY I SHRUNK THE KIDS

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

## European car market seen headed for slowdown

PARIS (R) — The European car market will continue to shrink in 1991, but healthy demand in eastern Germany will temper the slowdown and sales should pick up by the end of the year, analysts and car makers say.

The first quarter of 1991 could prove the toughest for car makers, who enjoyed five years of strong growth in European sales before a modest, one per cent downturn last year.

Manufacturers foresee a more dramatic slowdown than analysts, but both camps agree eager buyers in former East Germany could brake the decline.

"Sales in former East Germany will strengthen European sales by about two per cent beginning this year," said Cyrille Constans-Gavarry, managing director of the Paris-based Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches en Economie (CETREC).

Consulting firm DRI/McGraw Hill projects 25,000 new vehicles will be sold in eastern Germany. "Even if former East Germany does not absorb as many new vehicles, its purchases of used cars will help clean out inventories in western Germany, which will benefit from this in-draught," Constans-Gavarry said.

A spokesman for France's state-owned Regie Nationale des Usines Renault estimated the European market would shrink by between 2.5 and three per cent in 1991, with the decline

concentrated in the first four months.

Peugeot S.A. projects European car sales will drop about 3.5 per cent in 1991 to 12.82 million units.

Echoing Renault, Frederic Saint-Geours, managing director of Automobiles Peugeot, said the downturn would resemble "an upside-down circumflex accent" because after a falloff really in 1991, sales would climb back by the end of the year to their levels of late 1990.

Peugeot officials describe 1991 as a year of transition that could pave the way to a resurgence in 1992 and 1993.

Raymond Ravelin, president of the French Automobile Manufacturers Association, also foresees a 3.5 per cent contraction in the market.

Umberto Agnelli, president of Fiat Auto S.p.A., has said the downturn in sales could reach seven per cent.

The prospect of firm demand in Germany explains why Carl Hahn, president of Volkswagen A.G., considers himself "extremely optimistic in the medium term." He has predicted European sales would remain at "an extremely high level, despite some technical adjustments in the range of one or two per cent."

With the stimulus of new demand, Germany could distinguish itself from its neighbours, as it did between 1987 and 1989 when its market

remained stagnant while sales soared elsewhere in western Europe.

Analysts attributed the estimated one per cent decline in 1990 European sales — after a 32 per cent runup over the five preceding years — to the sluggish performance in Britain and Spain, where sales have fallen 12 per cent and six per cent, respectively.

They predicted sales would stabilise in Britain in 1991 and fall another five per cent in Spain, while the slowdown would spread to Italy and France.

CETREC and the Bureau d'Information et de Previsions Economiques (BIP), a private forecasting unit, project a three per cent shrinkage in the French market. DRI forecast a four per cent contraction, while Peugeot sees a 5.5 per cent drop.

Some analysts said the Italian market was expected to experience a similar downturn, although DRI forecast a contraction of as much as eight per cent.

As for European car makers' shares of the market, a specialist with a large French bank predicted Peugeot would strengthen its hold on third place and even gain ground on Fiat.

First-place Volkswagen would benefit from economic and political reforms in eastern Europe, dimming Peugeot's chances of realising its goal of becoming Europe's foremost car maker by 1993, the expert said.

## Occidental Petroleum plans \$2b restructuring

LOS ANGELES (R) — Occidental Petroleum has announced aggressive plans to return to its oil and gas roots with a \$2 billion restructuring plan, ending the company's dramatic diversification under late chairman Armand Hammer.

The company said it would cut its dividend by 40 per cent and reduce its \$8.8 billion debt by \$3 billion through asset sales.

Occidental, a conglomerate with interests ranging from chemicals to meat processing and film production, said it wants to "sell assets that no longer fit with the company's business strategy."

Chairman and chief executive officer Ray Irani acknowledged the difficulty of restructuring Occidental in the current recessionary climate.

"We are keenly aware of the lack of liquidity in the marketplace, but we have some very valuable assets which are of interest to serious buyers with the ability to pay cash," Irani said.

Under the restructuring, Occidental will cut its generous quarterly dividend, considered sacrosanct under Hammer, to 25 cents per share from 62.5 cents. Analysts said the cut will allow Occidental to pump money into oil and gas exploration and production, where it has traditionally excelled.

## E. Europe faces banking challenge

PRAGUE (R) — Reform-minded eastern European countries must establish Western-style banking systems as a precondition for shifting to market economies, bankers from both East and West have said.

A functioning banking system is crucial to privatisation — the single most important reform — which promises to transfer virtually the entire region's economy from state hands to entrepreneurs and shareholders in the next few years.

"Reorganisation of the bank-

ing system must be given a special priority in the countries of Eastern Europe," Guenther Schmidt-Weyland, managing board member of Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank, said.

"Efficient domestic financial markets are the prerequisite for whatever these countries may aspire to," he told an international management forum in Prague.

Bohumil Stadyňa, a top Czechoslovak economic official who serves as deputy minister in the office of Prime Minister Marian Calfa, echoed Schmidt-

Weyland's remarks.

"There's no discussion that banks are the ones that have to take the lead in this (economic reform) process," he said.

Under the communist model of banking, central banks had a monopoly of commercial banking while a few specialised agencies handled areas such as foreign trade and personal banking.

The trend now is to set up a two-tier banking system, in which the central bank has true central bank responsibilities for monetary policy and the currency, while

its commercial activities are transferred to one or more commercial banks.

Banking monopolies are ended at the same time, allowing new banks to open, existing specialised institutions to enter commercial banking, and commercial banks to move into the specialised areas.

The country furthest down this road is Hungary, where 40 or 50 banks have taken root since its banking reform began in 1987 while the country was under Communist Party rule.



## Thousands in Moscow denounce Gorbachev over Baltics killings

MOSCOW (R) — Tens of thousands of protesters chanting "dictatorship will not pass" and denouncing President Mikhail Gorbachev over bloodshed in the Baltics massed under the walls of the Kremlin Sunday.

"Hangmen out of the Kremlin," "Down with the Communist Party," the throngs chanted as an orator read a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin proclaiming ordinary people if united could halt a return "in the old order."

Reuter reporters at the scene said thousands more demonstrators were flooding into the Manezh Square to join the rally — which comes at a time of high political tension — in a huge display of strength by radical reformers.

Simultaneously, in the far south of the Soviet Union, huge crowds of mourners filed through the streets of the Azerbaijani capital of Baku in memory of more than 100 people killed when the Soviet army seized control of the city exactly a year ago.

Yury Afanasyev, a parliamentary deputy and fierce critic of the Soviet president, told the

Moscow rally: "We are here to say a decisive no to the reactionary policy of Gorbachev and his team," the crowds chanted: "out out!"

Afanasyev said the demonstration was perhaps the largest staged in the capital by non-Communists since the 1917 October Revolution.

As they marched from the city's ring road down to Manezh Square on the edge of Red Square, the protesters chanted: "Hands off Lithuania" where last weekend 14 people died in a Soviet army operation that sparked a major political crisis.

Waving above the throng and the heads of children carried on their fathers' shoulders were the flags of the three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — which are seeking to regain their pre-war independence from the Soviet Union.

Home-made banners carried by the crowds read "freedom is stronger than bullets" and "Lithuania today — Russia tomorrow."

Only small units of police looked on, without intervening. In his message read by senior aide Gennady Bubilis from the

steps of the Moscow Hotel just 200 metres from the Kremlin's red-brick walls, Yeltsin declared:

"The danger of dictatorship about which key leaders of our society have warned is becoming a reality."

Gorbachev — seven of whose more liberal advisers have been excluded from a new executive team — and his colleagues had "practically rejected the former political policies and are openly supporting reactionary forces," the message declared.

There was no report on the rally by the Soviet News Agency TASS, or Moscow Radio's main services more than two hours after it began.

Radio Russia said its teleprinter carrying domestic news "have been mysteriously switched off."

Critics say Gorbachev, who has signalled since the start of the Gulf war Thursday that he is maintaining his policy of cooperation with the West, effectively backed his army's action in the Baltics by refusing to condemn it.

But allies of the Kremlin chief, who has condemned Iraqi

President Saddam Hussein as the guilty party for the Middle East conflict, say he is alarmed at the tension mounting in the country.

"The president is a supporter of political dialogue. He is seeking a way out. But one thing is obvious — someone is trying to blame him for everything," said Anatoly Karpachev of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Aides to the 59-year-old Yeltsin, Gorbachev's main political rival and one-time colleague in the party politburo, said security worries kept him from the rally. Yeltsin says there have already been some attempts on his life.

The size of the turnout for Sunday's rally — varying estimated by foreign reporters at 80,000 to over 200,000 — appeared to underline the polarisation of Soviet society amid mounting economic as well as political crisis.

On Saturday, hard-liners calling for strong central authority to be restored and also supporting Iraq in the Gulf conflict also staged a rally — but they only attracted around 1,000 people.

## Many countries begin to worry after Iraq calls for attacks

By the Associated Press

WORRIES about possible attacks by Iraqi sympathisers remained high in many countries despite Israel's apparent decision not to retaliate immediately against a second Iraqi missile attack Saturday.

Explosions and other violence appeared light despite a call from Baghdad for Muslims and Arabs to attack Western targets around the world.

The call was echoed in some other Muslim countries.

In Pakistan, a bomb ripped through a crowded theatre in Rawalpindi just before showtime Saturday, killing five people and injuring 48 others. No one claimed responsibility immediately.

In the Philippines, a bomb exploded Saturday near a U.S. government library, killing one person and injuring an Iraqi student. An Iraqi passport was found near the scene, police said.

The United States and other coalition members fear Israel's entry into the Gulf war could split Arab nations from the anti-Iraq alliance and expand the conflict to a war of Arabs versus Israel.

Japan announced that it would send blankets and portable stoves worth 12 million Japanese yen (\$89,000) to Jordan for the thousands of refugees expected to flee from Iraq.

Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto reportedly was to inform U.S. officials Sunday that Japan will provide \$5 billion as an additional contribution to the U.S.-organised multinational forces against Iraq.

Iraq's call for Muslims around the world to unite against the "unjust war" by attacking Western interests came on the heels of the launch of a second round of Scud-style missiles at Israel on Saturday.

In Algeria, the ruling party called for Arab states to join Iraq in the war.

In Nigeria, a conservative Muslim leader urged solidarity with Iraq in a Saturday night speech. But the government vowed to crush any attacks on U.S. or other Western facilities.

Jordan's Parliament also strongly denounced allied attacks on Iraq and called on Arab and Islamic nations to strike out against the United States and its allies in the war.

Britain's Foreign Office warned Britons not to travel to 23 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East because of danger related to the Gulf war.

The Philippines, meanwhile, increased security Sunday after the apparent failed bombing attempt and the U.S. embassy warned Americans to be alert for attacks.

Libyan leader Col. Moammar Qadhafi said he would not advocate attacks in support of Iraq.

In Lebanon, the entire staff of the U.S. embassy in Beirut fled to Cyprus because of fears of attacks. Foreign Ministry officials said.

U.S. authorities in Bangkok said they had received a "credible" threat of imminent attack against U.S., Israeli, British and Australian targets there, including airlines.

Airports, military bases, mosques and synagogues across the United States tightened security.

In Italy, Interior Minister Vincenzo Scotti said seven Iraqis had been expelled this week and three others told to leave the country. Two people thought to be Palestinians were detained, he said.

Scotti said 28,000 soldiers had been mobilised to help police counter possible attacks. Escorts were increased for diplomats and others considered at risk, and security was stepped up at sports stadiums, he said.

Greece, Belgium and Pakistan expelled Iraqi diplomats.

In Jakarta, armed forces spokesman Brig. Gen. Huriadi Purwasaputra said authorities were ready to protect all foreigners staying in Indonesia, an overwhelmingly Muslim nation.

A package containing explosives was found at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Jakarta Friday.

Police in New York City reported they have investigated an average of 150 bomb scares per day — ten times the average — since Tuesday.

Chinese Premier Li Peng, whose nation abstained from the United Nations vote to sanction military force to get Iraq out of Kuwait, appealed to "all parties involved in the Gulf war to exercise the greatest restraint and prevent the escalation of war," the Chinese News Agency, Xinhua, reported.

Australia summoned Iraqi Charge d'Affaires, Sadd Omran to hear a government protest.

Iraq's seven diplomats had already been restricted to a 50-kilometre radius of the embassy in Canberra.

Anti-war protests around the world continued.

Tens of thousands of people marched through major Australian cities demanding an end to the war and the recall of the

navy's task force in the Middle East. Many of the protests were the largest since the Vietnam War era.

Smaller demonstrations were staged in front of the U.S. embassy in Tokyo and the U.S. unofficial diplomatic mission in Taipei, where one protester was arrested.

On Friday, pro-Iraq demonstrators turned out in force. In Mauritania, soldiers and police fired tear gas to disperse about 20,000 demonstrators, and tens of thousands of fundamentalists marched in Algeria.

In southern Lebanon, about 15,000 marchers chanted, "Saddam, Saddam, wipe out Israel," as they paraded through Sidon Friday.

"Saddam, use gas. Saddam, use chemicals," they pleaded.

Anti-war protesters who burned the American flag and blocked military bases around the country were countered by demonstrators who waved the flag in a show of support for U.S. troops in the Middle East.

Thousands of protesters gathered Saturday at Lafayette Park across from the White House where they listened to speakers denouncing the U.S. military action.

More than 1,600 protesters have been arrested nationwide since war broke out early Thursday.

In San Francisco, 48 demonstrators were arrested Friday at the Presidio, headquarters of the 6th U.S. army overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge.

There also were arrests in various cities across the country.

In Minneapolis, about 400 demonstrators watched as an American flag was hurled into a burning trash container.

In San Francisco, 2,000 anti-war protesters gathered in the city's United Nations Plaza Friday evening.

Police in Bloomington, Indiana, arrested 91 anti-war demonstrators after they blocked the entrance to a military recruiting station with body bags containing protesters.

In New York, people screaming "no blood for oil" blocked entrances to a federal building and 36 arrests were made.

Authorities in Eugene, Oregon, were investigating the Thursday night firebombing of a military reserve training centre. Six people were arrested in Corvallis, Oregon, for blocking the entrance to a Marine Corps office.

In Tucson, Arizona, 11 anti-war protesters were arrested for blocking the street in front of the federal building.

## World Muslims gather in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — About 500,000 Muslims from at least 20 countries gathered in the industrial town of Tongi Saturday for a 3-day religious conference.

The Muslims prayed for an end to the Gulf war and for peace and progress in the Muslim ummah, or community.

Delegates from Iraq and Kuwait did not attend the conference because of the fighting, Abdul Mukhtad Ahmad, one of the organisers of the conference

said. The conference is sponsored by Taghlig Jamaat, a non-political Muslim organisation based in New Delhi, and is entirely devoted to theology.

Organisers said the Muslim gathering is second in size only to the Hajj, the annual Islamic pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

Last year, about 2 million Muslims attended the confer-

ence and the same number are expected by the final day of this year's conference, said Samwar Hussain, one of the gathering's organisers.

He said thousands of Muslims from Bangladesh braved cold weather to trek to Tongi, 22 kilometres north of Dhaka. He said the gathering has assumed special significance because of the attack by allied forces on Iraq.

## U.S., Soviets try to unravel knots in arms treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet and U.S. negotiators will make a final effort to agree on a treaty reducing stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons. The pact is to be signed at a Moscow summit next month if U.S.-Soviet relations aren't further strained.

The Soviets held meetings early this week with State Department experts, U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity told the Associated Press Saturday.

The Soviet actions in the Baltic republics and a broad retreat from democratic reforms have prompted concerns that President George Bush might reconsider whether he should attend the scheduled Feb. 11-13 talks with Mikhail Gorbachev.

But White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Friday after Bush spoke by telephone to Gorbachev about the Gulf crisis that the summit was still on.

U.S. officials have said they're confident the treaty can be finished in time for the summit.

Alexei Obukhov and Reginald Bartholomew, the under secretary of state for international security affairs, will lead the negotiators as they try to reach agreement on the strategic arms reduction treaty.

Several provisions in the start pact are unsettled, including procedures for monitoring production of solid rocket fuel and missile assembly plants.

Other thorny issues include a Soviet demand to inspect U.S. B-2 bomber plants and how much information from missile flight tests will be exchanged.

Bush had said all along he wouldn't hold summit unless the treaty was ready to be signed. But with U.S.-Soviet relations on the upswing, he announced last month he would go to Moscow to meet with Gorbachev.

## Lithuanian TV stations battle to win viewers

KAUNAS, USSR (AP) — In a battle for Lithuania's airwaves, Soviet officials have disguised an army colonel as a civilian anchorman broadcasting from the conquered television tower and Saturday began live coverage of the Gulf war.

The occupied television station is competing against a separatist facility in the second Lithuanian city of Kaunas, and a tiny station set up by nationalists in the parliament building in Vilnius.

The main television station was seized by Soviet paratroopers in a brutal assault on Jan. 13 in which 14 people died. Within half an hour of the Soviet assault, round-the-clock coverage had begun at a small, little-used auxiliary television station in Kaunas, 100 kilometres west of the capital, which formerly produced only a few hours of broadcasting a week.

In Vilnius, nationalists set up a makeshift television transmitter in the parliament — which is barricaded against Soviet attack — to broadcast parliamentary proceedings and announcements to the city. Its signal, however, is weak and unable to reach beyond the city limits.

At the occupied station, which has a powerful transmitter that can reach the entire republic, announcer Edmundas Kaspervicius anchors the main news programmes.

## Slovenia, Croatia prepare for expected assault

BELGRADE (AP) — Slovenia and Croatia have defied army warnings to disarm local defence militias and prepared for an expected military assault by federal forces.

However, Yugoslavia's federal presidency moved the deadline for the two republics to disarm "illegal paramilitary forces" from midnight Saturday to midnight Monday, the Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug, reported.

The terse Tanjug report said the presidency, which is in charge of the Communist-dominated armed forces, extended the deadline "following a Croatian request." It did not elaborate further.

Slovenia and Croatia have defended their defence militias were legal.

Slovenian and Croatian authorities, who ousted Communists in spring elections, put their militias on highest alert, and citizens began stocking up food supplies, according to officials and media reports from both republics.

The two states seek more self-rule within the fractious Yugoslav Federation of six republics and fear the army will crack down while the world is preoccupied with the Gulf war.

"The Yugoslav army has not defined which illegal forces they have in mind," Janez Jansa, Slovenia's minister in charge of militia units, said by telephone. "Our territorial defence forces are not illegal by any means."

Stipe Mesic, Croatia's representative in the federal presidency, said at a meeting Saturday

that Croatia is "determined to keep its defence in its own hands."

He added that the federal "army cannot execute a military coup."

"To all those who want to live in a (Communist) system we wish the best of luck — but without us," Mesic said.

Ethnic Serbs in western Croatia, in a state of virtual rebellion against Croatian authorities since August, are said to have complied with the order and returned most of the weapons they seized from police arsenals last year.

Milan Brezak, deputy interior minister of Croatia, said the Serbs "have formed the only illegal armed groups that exist in the republic." Croatia's Territorial Defence Militias are legal, he said in a telephone interview.

Croatia's Interior Ministry said in a statement that 228 rifles, 20 machine guns, 25 sub-machine guns, 76 handguns, dozens of hand grenades and thousands of rounds of ammunition had been returned to police stations by Saturday.

Reports from the Serbian province of Kosovo say ethnic Albanians, who seek more autonomy from the largest Yugoslav republic, have refused to give up weapons they allegedly possess illegally.

Croatia and Slovenia advocate turning Yugoslavia into a loose confederation of allied states.

Communist-ruled Serbia and its ally, Montenegro, want to maintain the centralised federation. They are supported by the federal army.

## Mongolia looks West with visit to U.S.

PEKING (R) — Mongolia, shackled to the Soviet Union for seven decades of Communist rule, looks West this week with an unprecedented visit to Washington by President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat.

Mongolian officials in Peking, where Ochirbat was staying Sunday on his way to the United States, confirmed the visit would go ahead despite the Gulf war.

The first Mongolian president to visit the United States, he is due to meet President George Bush in the White House Wednesday. Officials declined to specify the dates for his trip.

For Mongolia's two million people living in a land of steppes and mountains equal in size to Western Europe, the visit is of great symbolic importance.

Ochirbat, 48, chose Washington as his first Western venue after taking office last March and steering Mongolia away from 70 years of political domination by its giant neighbour, the Soviet Union.

Moscow will complete its withdrawal of Soviet troops from Mongolia in 1992.

Mongolia's ruling Communists, the People's Revolutionary Party, survived challenges from newly formed opposition groups in the country's first democratic elections last July and are committed to radical capitalist-style reforms.

Whereas the all-conquering Mongolian, Genghis Khan, swept west to create the world's biggest land empire in the 13th century, Ochirbat goes in search of loans and investment.

He leaves an economy in crisis. As in the Soviet Union, residents of his capital, Ulan Bator, queue for hours for food and basic necessities as the government attempts the painful transition from central planning to a market controlled economy.

Prices of many commodities doubled in one fell swoop last Wednesday as did salaries of state sector workers.

Mongolians who had their savings in state banks saw their deposits doubled overnight. Savings stashed under mattresses effectively halved in value.

Ration coupons for basic

foods, including tea and vodka, have been distributed.

"People who didn't have their money in banks are really upset," said one opposition party member contacted in Ulan Bator Sunday.

Food rationing was a relief as at least residents were guaranteed some supplies, she said.

Mongolia is saddled with gigantic debts — about 9.7 billion roubles (\$16 billion) owed to the Soviet Union.

"With the state of our economy we cannot help in the Gulf war," the opposition party member said. Many Mongolians supported the attack launched on Iraq last week by the U.S.-led multinational forces, she said.

During his Washington visit, Ochirbat will sign two agreements on trade and scientific and technological cooperation with the United States. The two sides will establish a joint council to boost bilateral trade.

Mongolia and the United States established diplomatic relations in 1987. Secretary of State James Baker visited Ulan Bator last August.

## Costner, Dances With Wolves winners at Golden Globes

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — The epic western *Dances With Wolves* triumphed at the 1991 Golden Globe Awards, winning three trophies.

Kevin Costner's first directorial effort was named Best Dramatic Motion Picture. He took the directing trophy and Michael Blake won for Best Screenplay.

The romantic comedy *Green Card* was chosen Best Comic or Musical Motion Picture and its French star, Gerard Philipe, was honored as Best Actor in that category.

Julia Roberts won Best Actress in a Musical or Comic Motion Picture for *Pretty Woman*. Kathy Bates took the Best Dramatic Actress trophy for her portrayal as an obsessed fan of a romance writer in *Misery*.

Jeremy Irons, starring in *Reversal of Fortune* as Klaus Von Bülow, was named Best Dramatic Actor.

The Best Foreign Language Film Globe went to France's *Cyrano De Bergerac*, which stars Gerard Philipe in the title role.

The *Godfather Part III* led nominations in movie categories with seven, but came away empty-handed.

The black-tie crowd gathered under a cloud of war for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Robin Williams, Faye Dunaway and Costner passed through metal detectors with other celebrities, bomb-sniffing dogs inspected photographers' gear and security guards were stationed at doors.

"I know we all pray for peace tonight," host Dana Delany said in opening the show.

NBC's *Cheers* was a big television winner. Kirstie Alley won for Best Comic Television Actress, Ted Danson for Best Actor in a Comic or Musical Series and the show itself for Best Musical or Comic TV Series.

David Lynch's quirky television drama *Twin Peaks* won three prizes, including Best Dramatic Series, Best Television Actor for Kyle MacLachlan and Best Supporting Television Actress for Piper Laurie.

Charles Durning won Best Supporting TV Actor for *The Kennedys of Massachusetts*, the war-themed *Decorated Day* won Best TV Mini-Series or Movie.

In movie competition, Whoopi Goldberg was honored for Best Supporting Actress for her depiction of a low-rent psychic in *Ghost*. Bruce Davison won Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of a compassionate friend to his dying lover in the AIDS drama *Longtime Companion*.

Jack Lemmon got the special Cecil B. DeMille Award for contribution to entertainment.

The Globes are considered an early indicator of how the Academy Awards may go later in the year.

Rocker Jon Bon Jovi collected a Globe for Best Original Song for *Blaze Of Glory* from Young Guns II. Best original score went to *The Sheltering Sky*.

Susan Sarandon, nominated for Best Dramatic Actress for her depiction of an earthy waitress in *White Palace*, announced that because of the Gulf war, she would not attend.

"I am sorry I am unable to join my colleagues at the Golden Globe Awards. I am honoured to have been nominated," Miss Sarandon said in a statement.

"However, due to the war in the Gulf, I feel it is best to remain close to home where I will continue my work with the military family support network in its efforts for peace and to

bring our troops safely home."

An opening production number, which was to be performed by singer Neil Carter, was canceled "due to recent world events," the Hollywood Foreign Press Association said.

Andy Garcia, Macaulay Culkin, the young star of *Home Alone*, Bruce Willis and his wife, Demi Moore, Anjelica Huston, Al Pacino and Jeremy Irons were among the stars who attended the ceremony.

Unlike the Oscars, the 86 voters of the association split films into two categories, dramatic and musical or comic. In all, there are 13 categories for motion pictures and 11 awards, somewhat less closely watched, for television.

Among the nominations for *The Godfather Part III* was Best Dramatic Movie and Best Dramatic Actor for Pacino. Francis Ford Coppola was nominated as Best Director and was a co-nominee, along with Mario Puzo, for Best Writer.

Another mafia drama, *Goodfellas*, got five nominations including Best Dramatic Movie, *Dances With Wolves* got six nominations.

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — A former police officer was convicted for first-degree murder and five bank robberies committed by the so-called "ninja bandit." Matthew Griggin, 27, could be sentenced to death for the April 3, 1989, murder of Michael K. Howard, 33.

The security guard was shot to death when he interrupted an attempted car theft in an apartment-house parking lot. Griffin was convicted Wednesday of five armed robbery counts stemming from bank holdups in 1989 in Albuquerque that netted more than \$35,000. The robberies were dubbed the "ninja" bank robberies because the robber wore black in the style of ancient Japanese assassins. The murder conviction is subject to automatic appeal to the state supreme court. Griffin faces sentences totalling more than 60 years on the other counts.

Griffin, a four-year veteran of the force, was placed on administrative leave from the department in July 1989 after his arrest. He was fired later that month. Prosecutors called Griffin a liar who used phony names to rent cars and motel rooms in order to keep authorities off his trail. The defense attorney said he was shocked and disappointed by the verdicts.

## Man goes on trial for stealing rare books

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Over the years, authorities found Stephen Carrie Blumberg snooping suspiciously in library stacks and nabbed him with piles of stolen books. But it took a paid informant to uncover what the soft-spoken loner was getting away with. The information led Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officials to Blumberg's house in the southeast Iowa town of Ottumwa, where they seized the nation's largest-ever cache of stolen rare books and manuscripts, a 19-ton cache valued up to \$20 million. Blumberg goes on trial Wednesday on charges of interstate transportation of stolen property, conspiracy and possession of stolen property. Of the estimated 25,000 books and papers that were recovered, some were rare and priceless, others ordinary and worthless. Blumberg has had nothing to say since his arrest March 26. Two Minnesota men who pleaded guilty to interstate transportation of stolen property and the informant, who was paid \$50,000 by the FBI for evidence leading to the treasures, have agreed to testify against him. Don Nickerson, Blumberg's lawyer, indicated there would be no plea bargain, saying "we're definitely going to trial. It will be up to jury to decide." A team of book experts has sifted through the books to determine which were stolen, then match them with their owners. Prosecutor Lin Read of the U.S. attorney's office in Des Moines said none of the books has been returned because all are needed as evidence.

## Man in wheelchair robs bank

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A 75-year-old man in a wheelchair who said he robbed a bank of \$70 to buy heart medicine — and claimed anyone in the same position would have done the same — has pleaded innocent and allowed to remain free. Police say William Hart threatened to blow a downtown branch of the HomeFed Bank with a bottle of nitroglycerin that turned out to be heart medicine. U.S. Magistrate Roger Curtis McKee thanked Hart for voluntarily appearing for arraignment Wednesday and allowed him to remain free without bail. After the plea, Hart was ordered to be back in court on Jan. 29. McKee also told Hart that he didn't have to be booked, which includes fingerprinting in the courthouse basement, because "that's going to be an imposition, quite frankly." "Thank you," Hart said, his words slurred and his right side partially paralysed by a stroke. Officials have not yet decided whether to prosecute Hart, said Maria Arroyo-Tablin, chief of the crime division at the U.S. attorney's office in San Diego. Before the hearing, the retired merchant seaman contended he hadn't done anything wrong. "Anybody under the same conditions would have done the same thing," he said.

## U.S. police officer convicted of murder, robbery

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — A former police officer was convicted for first-degree murder and five bank robberies committed by the so-called "ninja bandit." Matthew Griggin, 27, could be sentenced to death for the April 3, 1989, murder of Michael K. Howard, 33.

The security guard was shot to death when he interrupted an attempted car theft in an apartment-house parking lot. Griffin was convicted Wednesday of five armed robbery counts stemming from bank holdups in 1989 in Albuquerque that netted more than \$35,000. The robberies were dubbed the "ninja" bank robberies because the robber wore black in the style of ancient Japanese assassins. The murder conviction is subject to automatic appeal to the state supreme court. Griffin faces sentences totalling more than 60 years on the other counts.